

a deadly double-sized issue

THE NEW MUTANTS

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21
NOV



SLUMBER PARTY



THERE IT IS--
PROFESSOR
XAVIER'S
SCHOOL FOR
GIFTED
YOUNGSTERS!



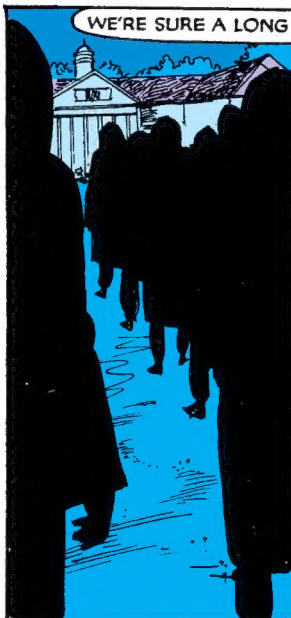
WHAT'S SO SPECIAL
ABOUT THEM,
ANYWAY?!

BUNCH'A
STUCK-UP
SNOBS, IF
YOU ASK ME.



NOBODY
DID, DRIP-
FACE.

YEAH-- AN'
NOBODY ASKED
YOU TO COME ALONG,
EITHER. TAKE OFF,
SEE IF WE CARE!



WE'RE SURE A LONG WAY FROM THE ROAD.



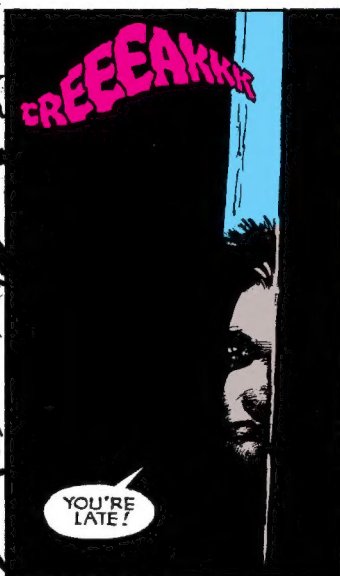
I DIDN'T
THINK IT'D
BE SO FAR.

AWFUL
DARK.

AWFUL
LONELY.

MY FEET
HURT.

WE'VE
ARRIVED.



CREEEAKKK

YOU'RE
LATE!



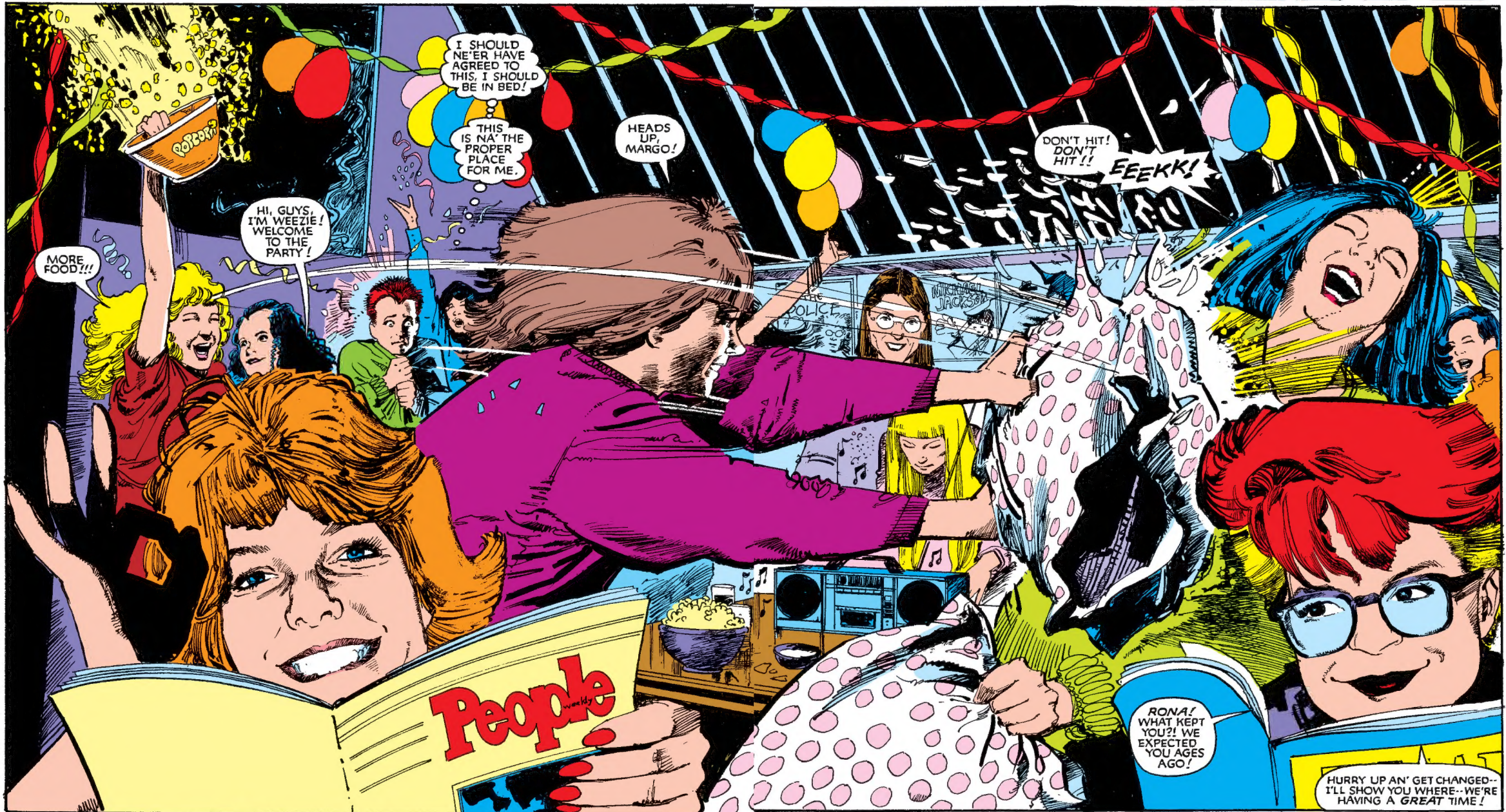
EXCUSE
US FOR
LIVING!

I'M SCARED,
I WANNA
GO HOME!

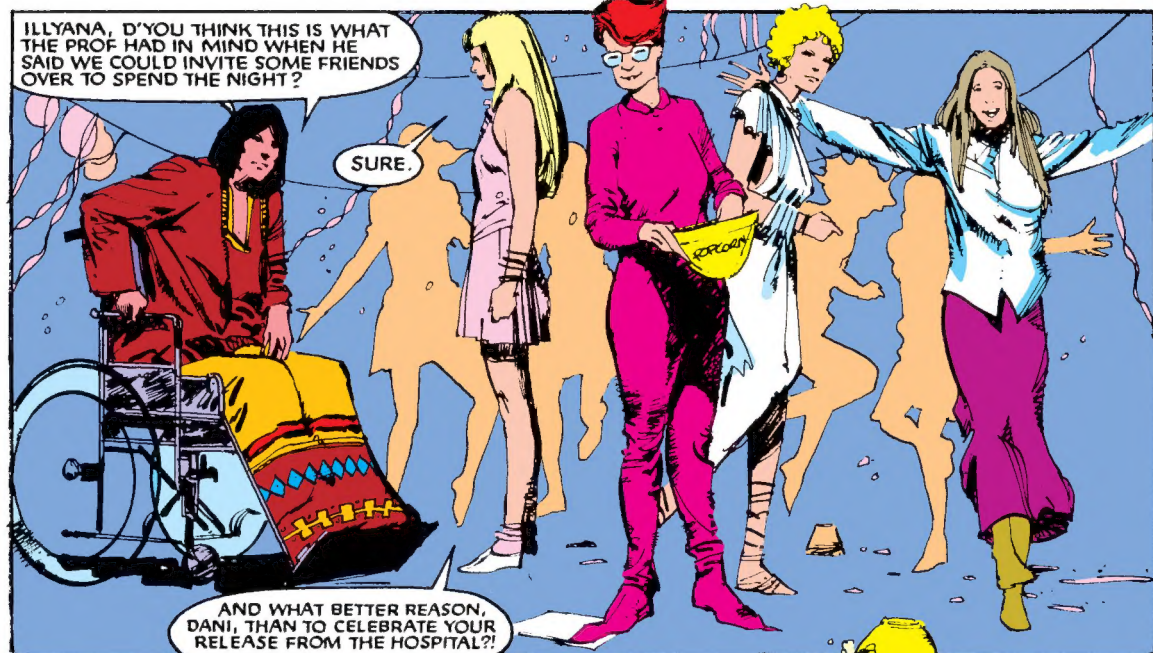
SHUT UP,
MARCIE!

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THE NEW MUTANTS



SLUMBER PARTY!



ILLYANA, D'YOU THINK THIS IS WHAT THE PROF HAD IN MIND WHEN HE SAID WE COULD INVITE SOME FRIENDS OVER TO SPEND THE NIGHT?

SURE.

AND WHAT BETTER REASON, DANI, THAN TO CELEBRATE YOUR RELEASE FROM THE HOSPITAL?!

I'D PREFER BEING OUT OF THIS CHAIR AS WELL. THAT MUSIC'S INFECTIOUS-- I WANT TO BOOGIE!

GIVE IT TIME, CHIEF-- YOU'RE LUCKY TO SIMPLY BE ALIVE. YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH TOO MUCH-- FOUGHT TOO DARN HARD-- TO MUCK THINGS UP NOW.

HOW'RE YOUR FOLKS?!! IS IT TRUE THEY OWN A REAL RANCH?!! WITH COWBOYS AND BUFFALO AND STUFF LIKE THAT?!! D'YOU THINK WE COULD VISIT IT SOMETIME?!

WHAT IS THE MATTER WITH YOU, MARCIE?!! IT'S GETTING SO WE CAN'T TAKE YOU ANYWHERE!

DON'T YOU HAVE ANY SENSE OF ADVENTURE--?

OR ANY SENSE AT ALL?

CUTE, JENNY-- PUT A SOCK IN IT, OKAY?

MARCIE, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME ANYBODY OUR AGE FROM SALEM CENTER'S EVER BEEN ALLOWED INTO XAVIER'S SCHOOL!

THAT'S JUST THE POINT! YOU'VE HEARD THE STORIES, LAURIE-- WHAT KIND'VE SCHOOL HAS ONLY A DOZEN STUDENTS. AN' SOME OF 'EM, LIKE THAT RAHNE SINCLAIR, ARE BABIES!

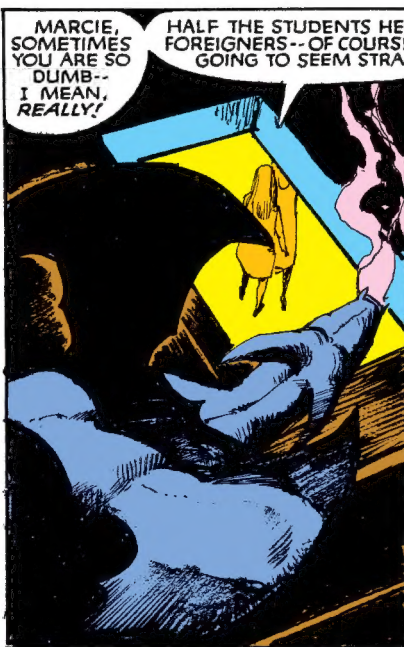
AN' THAT PROFESSOR XAVIER IS SO CREEPY-- HE LOOKS AT YOU LIKE HE KNOWS EVERYTHING YOU'RE THINKING!

IN YOUR CASE, MARCIE DEAR, THAT ISN'T HARD.



GO AHEAD, JENNY, MAKE FUN! YOU'LL GET YOURS!

I'LL BET ANYTHING THEY'VE GOT BODIES-- OR WORSE-- HIDDEN IN THE BASEMENT!



MARCIE, SOMETIMES YOU ARE SO DUMB-- I MEAN, REALLY!

HALF THE STUDENTS HERE ARE FOREIGNERS-- OF COURSE THEY'RE GOING TO SEEM STRANGE!



HEH HEH HEH HEH!

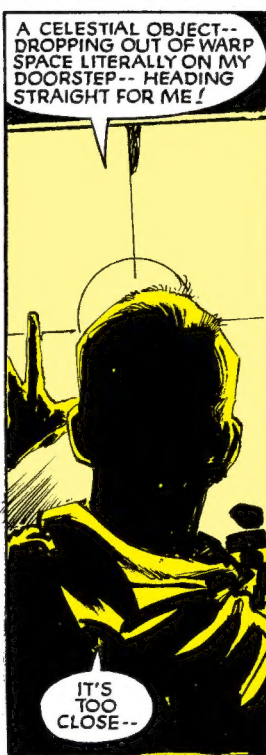
FAR ABOVE XAVIER'S MANSION -- AND A VERY AMUSED, VERY FOREIGN LITTLE DRAGON -- A UNIQUE ASTEROID FLOATS LAZILY AROUND THE GLOBE. THOUGH OF CONSIDERABLE SIZE, IT IS COMPLETELY MASKED FROM DETECTION. ITS OWNER LIKES HIS PRIVACY.

HE IS A MUTANT -- AS ARE CHARLES XAVIER AND ALL HIS "GIFTED YOUNGSTERS" -- AND MANY CONSIDER HIM TO BE ONE OF THE ARCH-VILLAINS OF ALL TIME.



HIS NAME IS MAGNETO.

THE PROXIMITY ALARM!



A CELESTIAL OBJECT-- DROPPING OUT OF WARP SPACE LITERALLY ON MY DOORSTEP-- HEADING STRAIGHT FOR ME!

IT'S TOO CLOSE--



-- COMING TOO FAST-- !!

IN DESPERATION, THE MASTER OF MAGNETISM USES HIS AWESOME ABILITIES TO TRY TO DEFLECT THE INTRUDER WITH AN ENERGY BOLT, TO PROTECT HIS HOME WITH A FORCE FIELD...

... TO NO AVAIL..

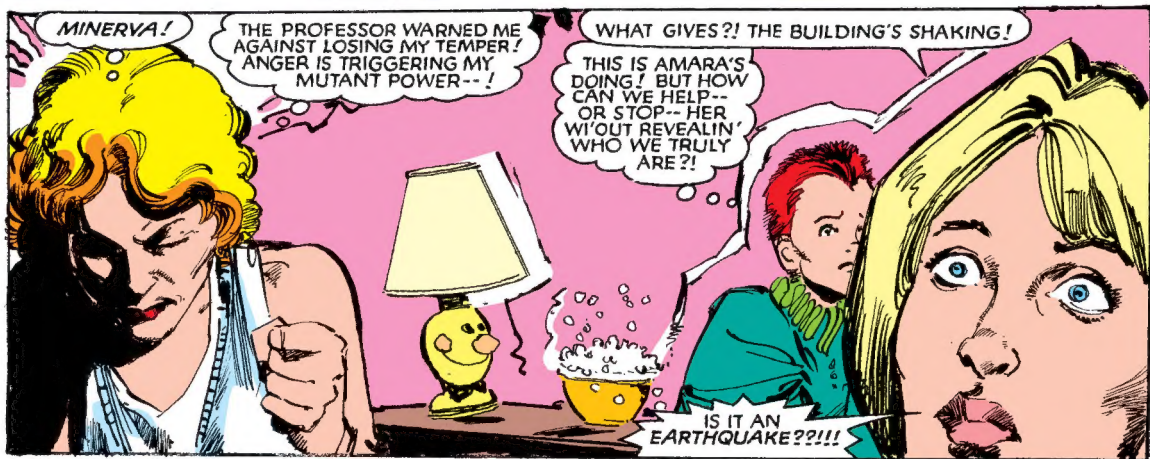
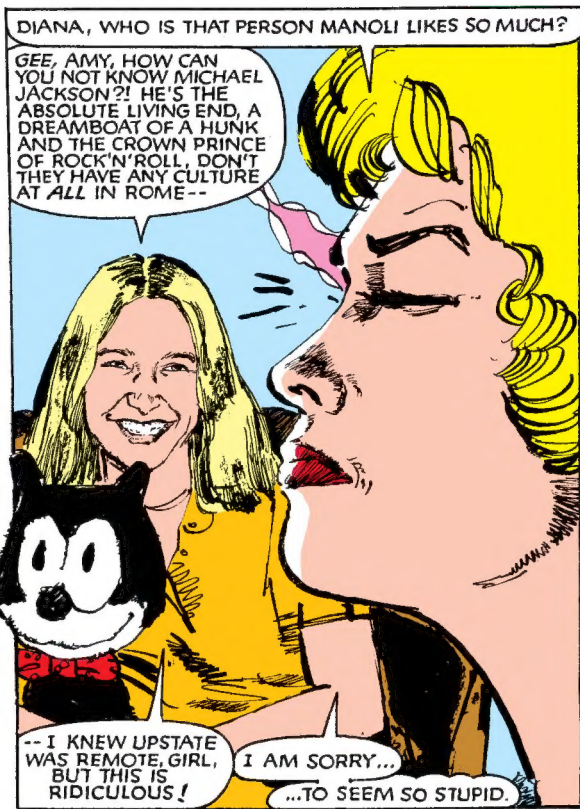
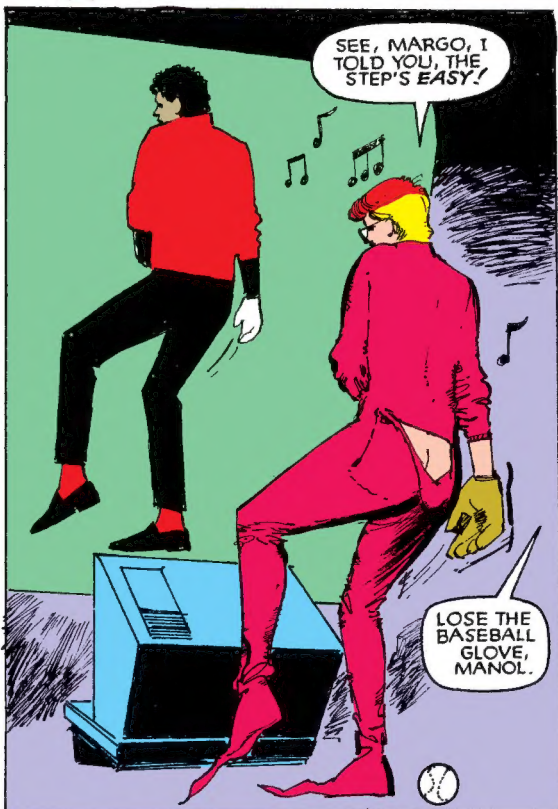
UNAWARE OF WHAT HE'S JUST DONE-- MAD WITH PANIC, WEAK, ALMOST UNTO DEATH, CONSCIOUS ONLY OF THE NEED TO FIND A PLACE TO HIDE, AND RECOVER HIS STRENGTH--

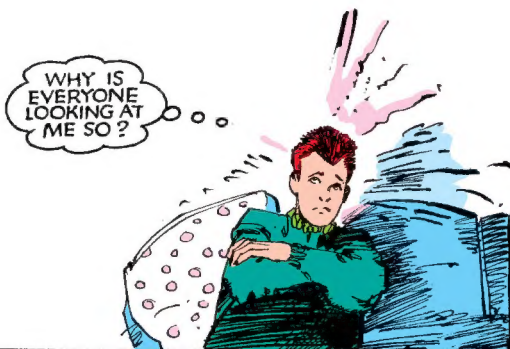
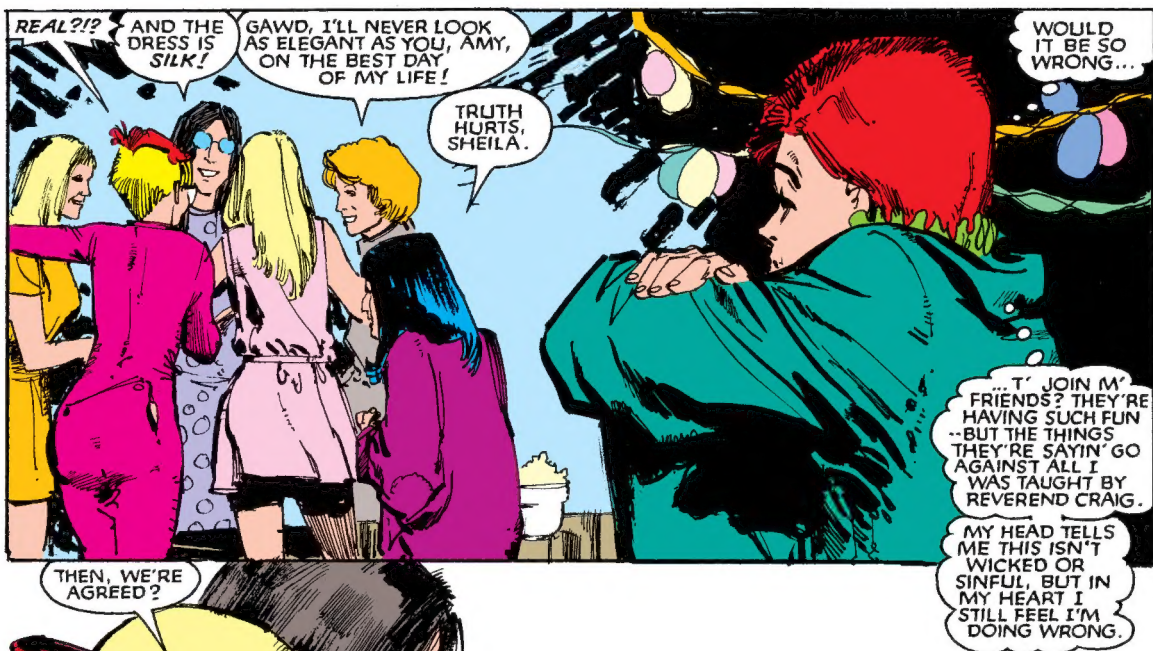
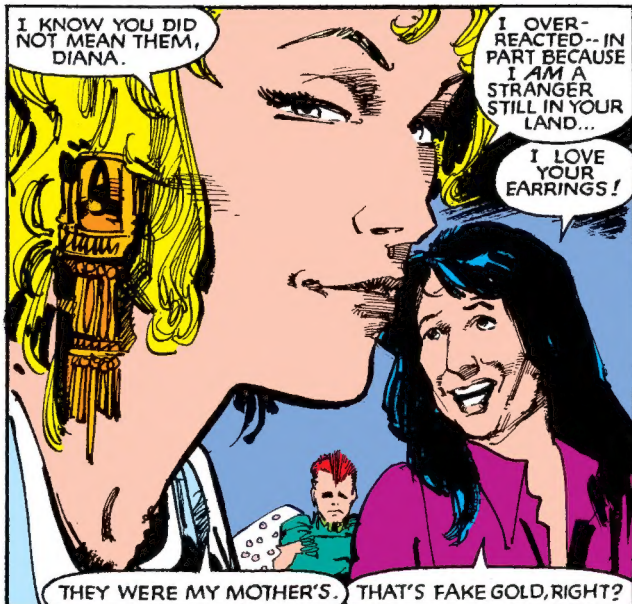
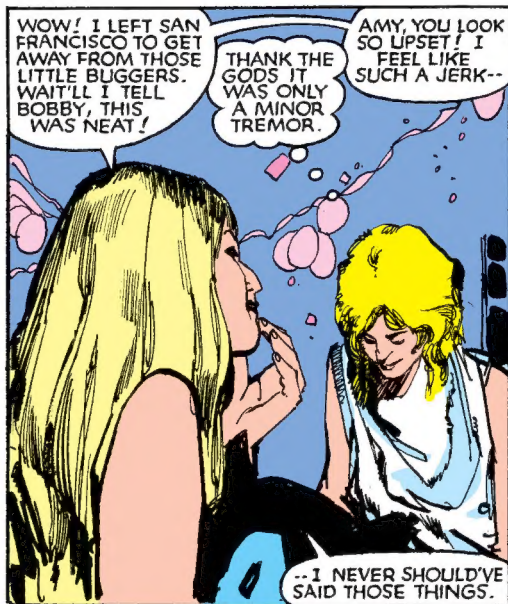
--WARLOCK PLUNGES TOWARDS THE EARTH, UNABLE TO RESIST THE PULL OF ITS GRAVITY.

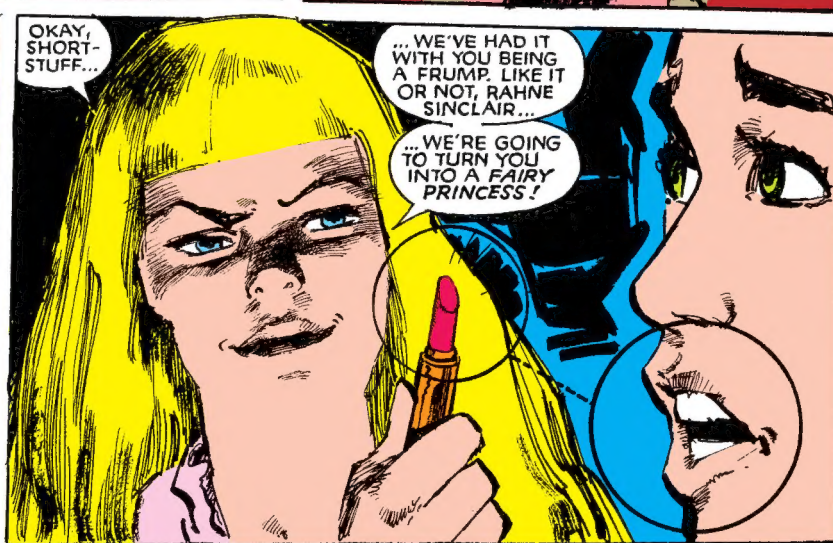
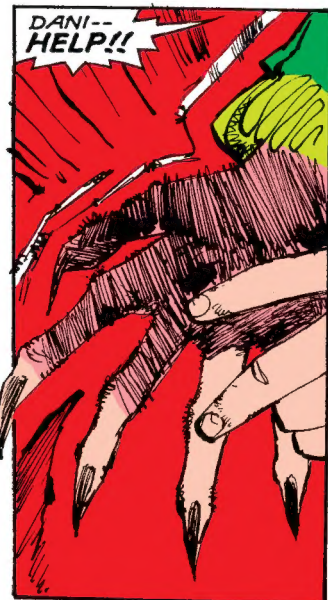
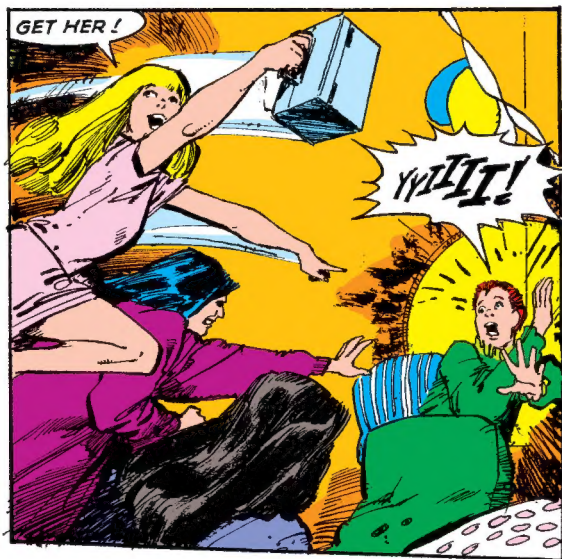
THERE! ○ ○ ○

ENERGY I SEEK-- TO RESTORE ME--

--MUST ANGLE DESCENT... LAND AS CLOSE TO... SOURCE AS POSSIBLE! AND PRAY... THE MAKER LEAVES ME POWER... ENOUGH TO FEED!







AS THE YOUNG WEREWOLF BEGINS A TRANSFORMATION UNLIKE ANY SHE'S UNDERGONE BEFORE...

...THE ONLY MALE MEMBERS OF THE NEW MUTANTS-- ROBERTO DaCOSTA AND SAM GUTHRIE-- APPROACH THE MANSION.

A GREAT GAME, WAS IT NOT, SAM? TWENTY-SEVEN INNINGS, NEARLY A RECORD!

WOULD'A BEEN NICER...

... IF THEY'D BEEN IN CONTENTION.

YOU COULD ALWAYS ROOT FOR THE METS.

AIN'T THE SAME, BOBBY.

JOE DiMAGGIO WAS MY GRAN'PA'S HERO AN' MICKEY MANTLE, MY DAD'S. AH FEEL OBLIGED T' CARRY ON THE TRADITION.

DO YOU THINK THEY'D HIRE ME?

I COULD BE THEIR LONG-BALL SLUGGER SUPREME!

A THOUGHT SHIFTS ROBERTO TO HIS SUPER-STRONG IDENTITY AS SUNSPOT, AND...

BABE RUTH-- EAT YOUR HEART OUT!

KCHOW!

BOBBY, YOU DUMB CLUCK-- YOU MAY'VE HIT THAT SUCKER A COUNTRY MILE...

... BUT S'POSE SOMEBODY'S UNDERNEATH WHEN IT LANDS?!

LIKE HIS NAMESAKE, CANNONBALL ROCKETS SWIFTLY THROUGH THE AIR, AND TENDS TO PULVERIZE ANYTHING THAT GETS IN HIS WAY.

ANYBODY C'N HIT FUNGOS, PAL-- LET'S SEE HOW WELL YOU STACK UP AGAINST A HOT PITCHER. THEN, MAYBE, YOU CAN BRAG.



HEY, BOBBY,
YOU OKAY?

YOUR MENTIONING
YOUR FATHER STARTED
ME THINKING ABOUT
MY OWN.

WHEN I WAS YOUNGER--
BEFORE MY POWERS MANIFESTED
THEMSELVES-- WE HAD
SUCH FUN, HE AND I. WE WOULD
GO TO SOCCER MATCHES, THE
THEATRE, EVERYWHERE-- WE
COULD TALK, SAM, WE WERE
MORE LIKE BEST FRIENDS
THAN FATHER AND SON!

NOW, THAT'S OVER. HE
ISN'T THE MAN I REMEM-
BER-- AND LOVE-- BUT SOME
CRUEL, GREEDY, RUTHLESS
IMPOSTER. I WANT TO
BELIEVE HE IS NOT A
BAD MAN, BUT--!

MAYBE ALL HE NEEDS IS THE TIME-- AN'
OPPORTUNITY-- T' FIND HIS TRUE SELF AGAIN?



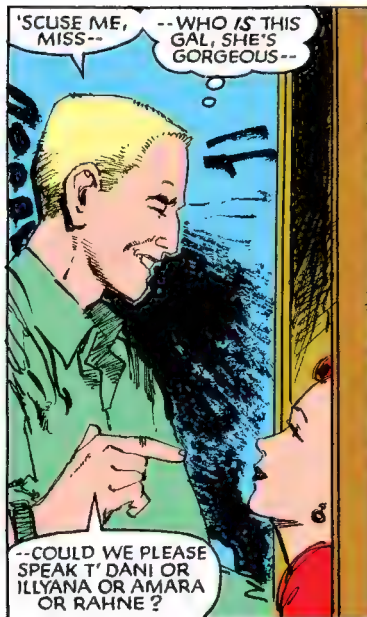
MOTHER TOLD ME
THAT. WE WERE
NEARLY KILLED
BECAUSE OF HIM,
SAM, YET SHE STILL
LOVES HIM-- HOW
CAN THAT BE?! IT
MAKES NO SENSE.

HEY, LOOK! SEE THE
LIGHTS IN THE ATTIC--
HEAR THE MUSIC?!
THE GIRLS'RE GOIN'
FULL BLAST!

LESSEE IF
THEY WANT
SOME
COMP'NY.

MY OWN DADDY WASN'T
PERFECT, EVEN IF MOST OF THE
TIME I TALK AS IF HE WAS-- BUT
AH'D GIVE ANYTHING FOR HIM
NOT T' BE DEAD. AH MISS HIM,
BOBBY, MORE'N AH C'N SAY.

AT LEAST YORE DADDY'S
ALIVE. YOU TWO STILL
GOT A CHANCE.



'SCUSE ME,
MISS--

--WHO IS THIS
GAL, SHE'S
GORGEOUS--

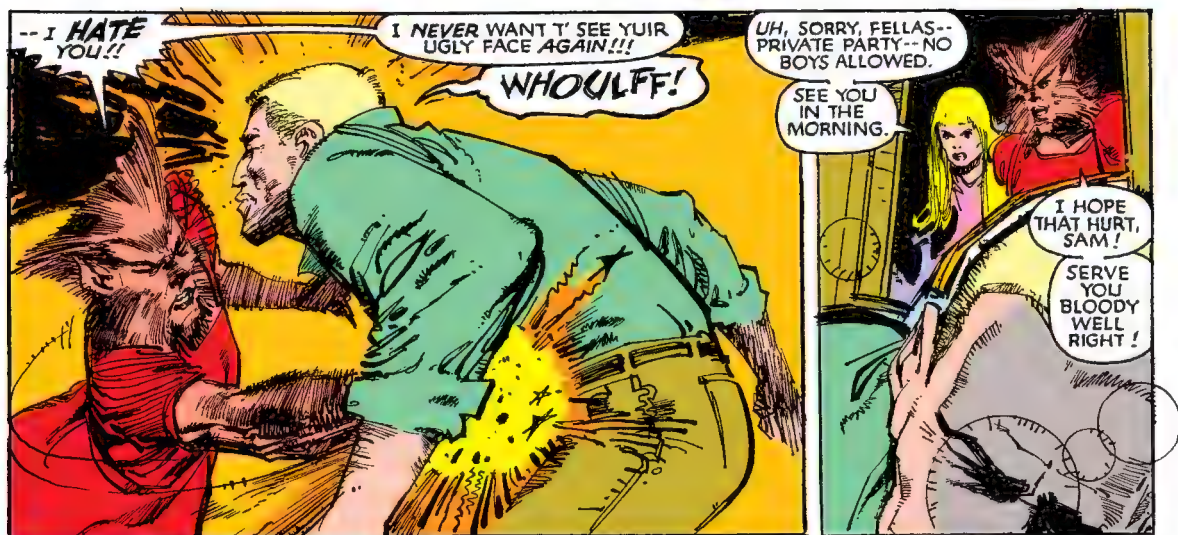
--COULD WE PLEASE
SPEAK T' DANI OR
ILLYANA OR AMARA
OR RAHNE?



SAM
GUTHRIE--



--YOU
IGNORANT,
UNCARING,
INSENSITIVE,
DULL-WITTED
CLOD--



-- I HATE YOU!!

I NEVER WANT T' SEE YUIR UGLY FACE AGAIN!!!

WHOULFF!

UH, SORRY, FELLAS-- PRIVATE PARTY-- NO BOYS ALLOWED.

SEE YOU IN THE MORNING.

I HOPE THAT HURT, SAM!

SERVE YOU BLOODY WELL RIGHT!



WHAT'D AH DO, WHAT'D AH SAY?!

RED CERTAINLY HAS A TEMPER.

AN' A WICKED GUT-PUNCH-- WHOO!

CUTE, THOUGH.

YEAHHP.

CAN YOU WALK, SAM?

BUDDY, AH'M STILL WORKIN' ON BREATHIN'!



EEENIE-MEENIE CHILI BEANIE, THE SPIRITS ARE ABOUT TO SPEAK!

ARE THEY FRIENDLY SPIRITS?

DON'T PUSH YOUR LUCK.

I'M SCARED.

NOT HALF SO MUCH, I BET, MARCIE, AS THOSE GHOSTS AN' DEMONS ARE OF YOU!

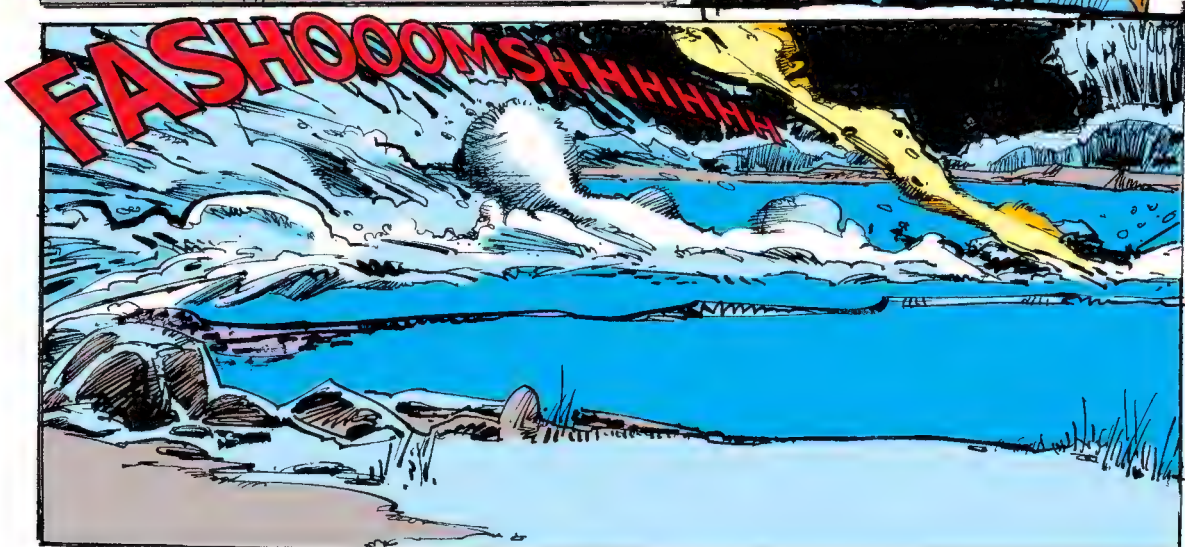
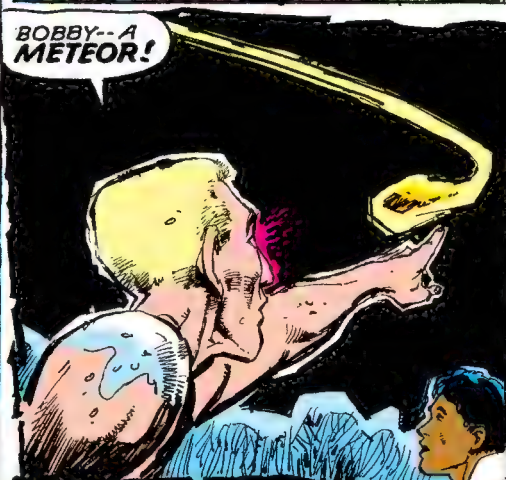
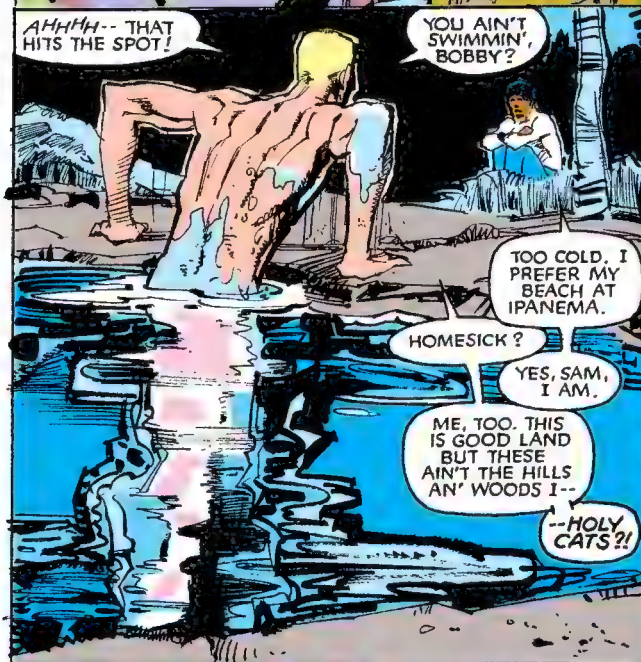
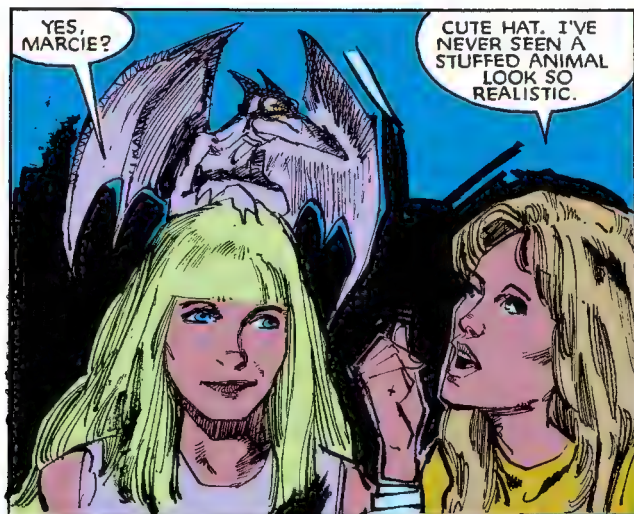


THA' ROTTEN SAM, HE DIDN'T EVEN RECOGNIZE ME!

NOPE -- ALL HE SAW WAS A LOVELY GIRL.

Y'REALLY THINK SO, DANI? OCH, NO-- AN' I HIT HIM! WILL HE EVER FIND IT IN HIS HEART T' FORGIVE ME???

ILLYAAANA!



STAY HERE--
AH'LL GO
GET IT!

BEEN WONDRIN' HOW
WELL MY POWER WORKS
UNDERWATER-- IF
AT ALL-- SEEMS AH'M
'BOUT T' FIND OUT.

THIS AIN'T NO BOLIDE--
EVEN SPACE ROCKS MOVE
IN BALLISTIC TRAJECT'RIES--
STRAIGHT LINES. THEY
DON'T MAKE RIGHT ANGLE
TURNS IN MIDFALL.

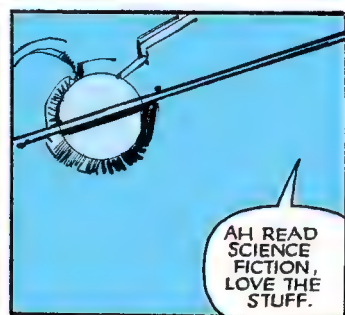
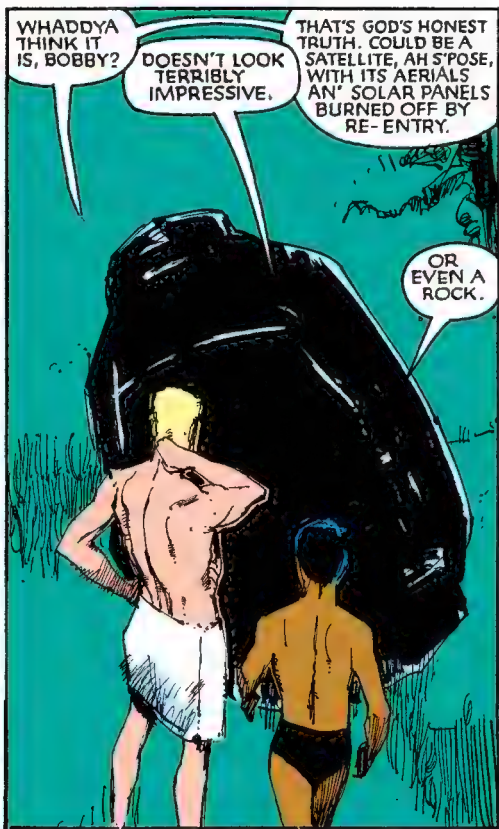
AN' THE IMPACT SHOULD'A
TORN UP THE LAKE REAL BAD.
LOONY AS IT SOUNDS, AH'D
SWEAR THAT WAS A CONTROLLED
DESCENT-- AT LEAST, PARTIALLY.

THERE IT IS!

BIG CRITTER-- 'BOUT MY SIZE--
WATER'S BOILIN' AROUND IT.
ATMOSPHERIC FRICTION
COOKED ITS SURFACE RED-HOT.

LUCKY AH'M INVULNERABLE
WHENEVER AH BLAST, ELSE
AH WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO COME
NEAR THE THING, MUCH LESS
TOUCH IT.

M' LUNGS'RE GETTIN'
TIGHT, BETTER HAUL MY
BUTT ASHORE.



THANKFULNESS.

RESTORE
ORDER
SELF--

-- THOUGHTS
AND FORM!

WEAK!

LIFELIGHT
FADING!

TIRED...

... DESIRE
REST.

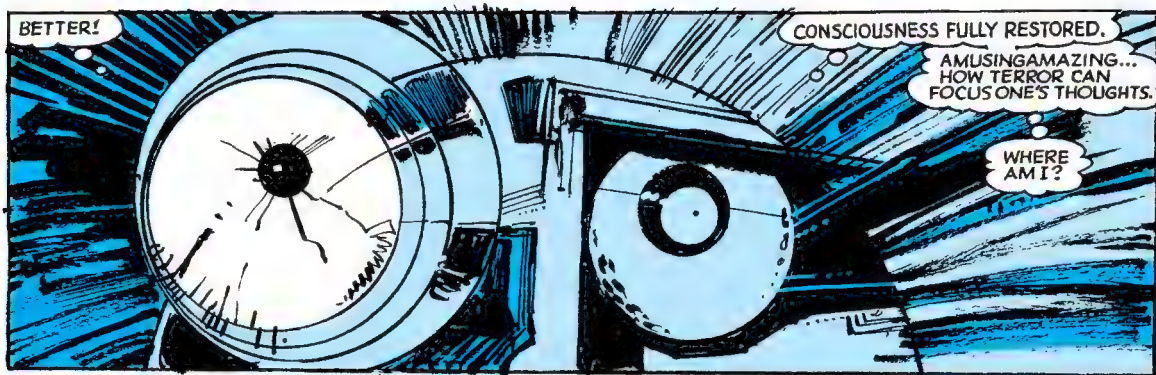
FEAR FALLING
WREDS CORBORAND...
CALM!

YEARNING.

OBLIVION.

MAGUS--

--NO!



BETTER!

CONSCIOUSNESS FULLY RESTORED.

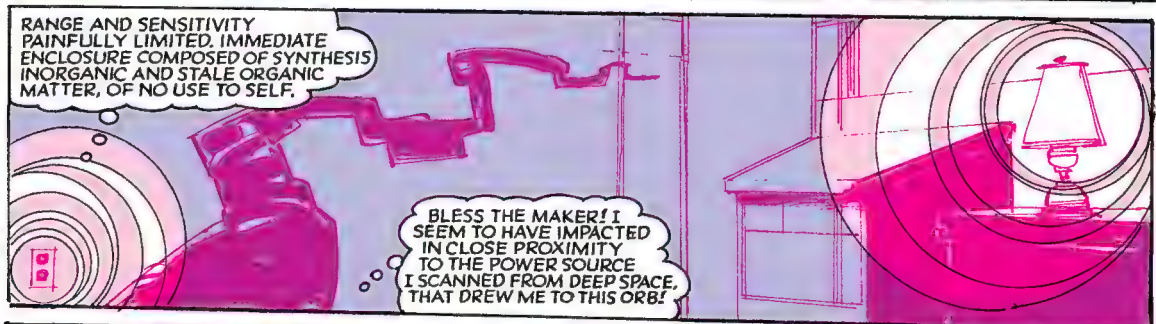
AMUSING/AMAZING...
HOW TERROR CAN
FOCUS ONE'S THOUGHTS.

WHERE
AM I?



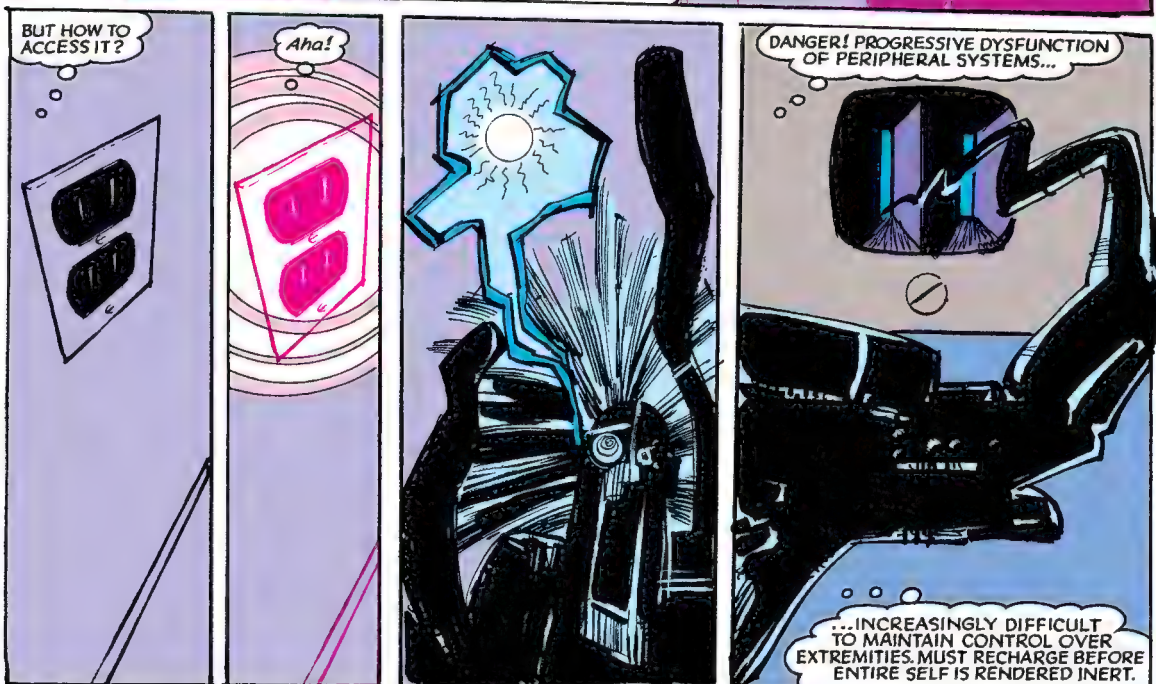
A STRUCTURE,
OBVIOUSLY.

SCANNING.



RANGE AND SENSITIVITY
PAINFULLY LIMITED. IMMEDIATE
ENCLOSURE COMPOSED OF SYNTHESIS
INORGANIC AND STALE ORGANIC
MATTER, OF NO USE TO SELF.

BLESS THE MAKER! I
SEEM TO HAVE IMPACTED
IN CLOSE PROXIMITY
TO THE POWER SOURCE
I SCANNED FROM DEEP SPACE.
THAT DREW ME TO THIS ORB!

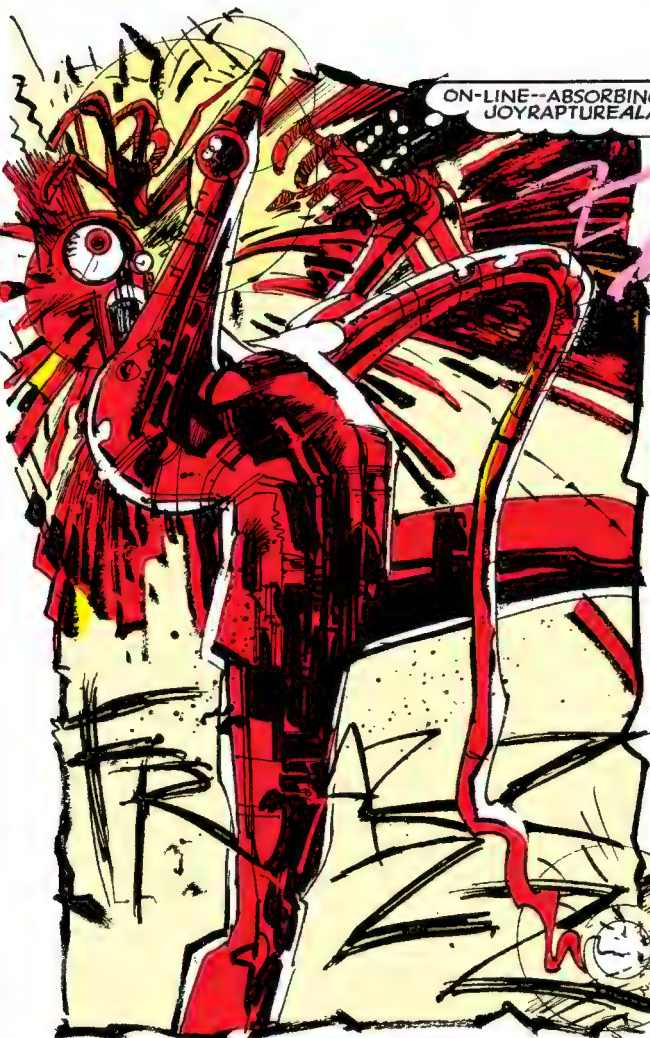


BUT HOW TO
ACCESS IT?

Aha!

ANGER! PROGRESSIVE DYSFUNCTION
OF PERIPHERAL SYSTEMS...

...INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT
TO MAINTAIN CONTROL OVER
EXTREMITIES. MUST RECHARGE BEFORE
ENTIRE SELF IS RENDERED INERT.



ON-LINE--ABSORBING POWER--
JOYRAPTUREALARM!

TOO MUCH--
CANNOT COPE--

YALOWW!!!

ZAKT!

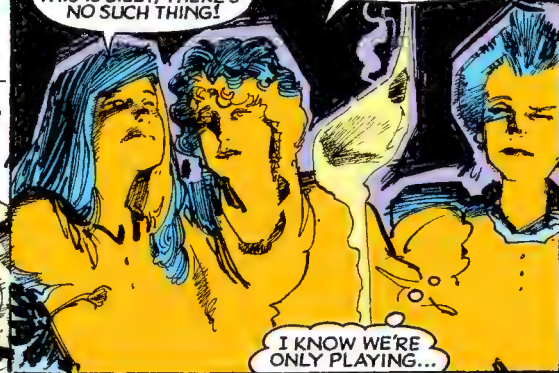
blink!



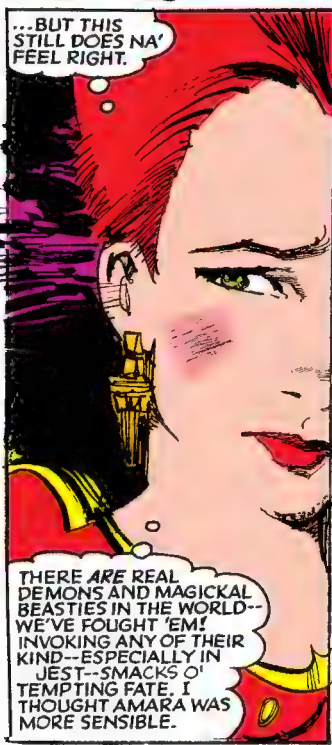
AT THAT MOMENT, IN THEIR ATTIC, BLISSFULLY
UNAWARE...

HEAR ME, O SPIRITS--
THIS IS SILLY, THERE'S
NO SUCH THING!

ARE YOU ABSOLUTELY
SURE, MARCIE?



I KNOW WE'RE
ONLY PLAYING...



...BUT THIS
STILL DOES NA'
FEEL RIGHT.

THERE ARE REAL
DEMONS AND MAGICKAL
BEASTIES IN THE WORLD--
WE'VE FOUGHT 'EM!
INVOKING ANY OF THEIR
KIND--ESPECIALLY IN
JEST--SMACKS O'
TEMPTING FATE. I
THOUGHT AMARA WAS
MORE SENSIBLE.



EeEoOoYoyoyyyy

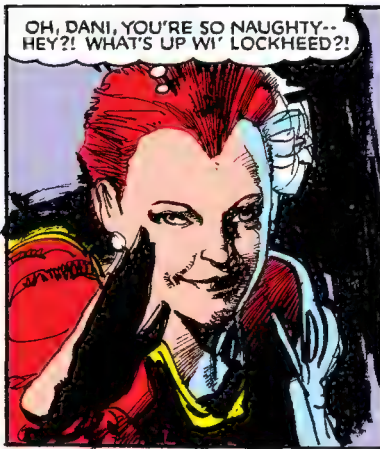
WHOSOEVER SUMMONETH
ME, THE DJINN OF
THE SACRED BOARD?

WOW!

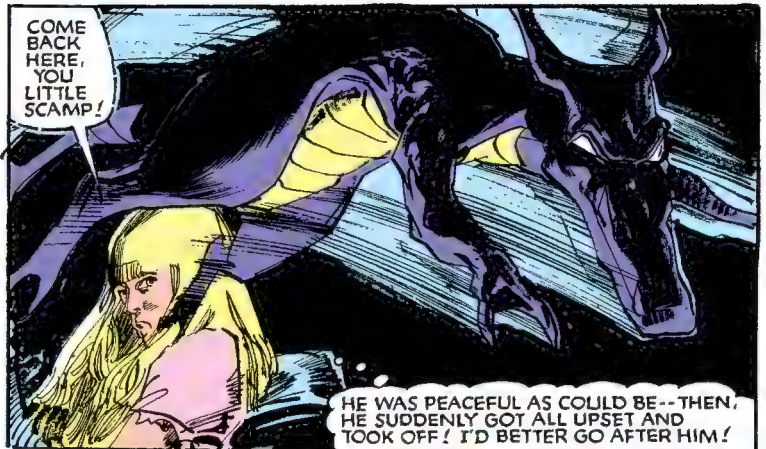


FROM THE LOOK RAHNE'S
TOSSING ME, SHE'S
GUESSED THE TRUTH--
THAT SPECTRE'S MY
CREATION.

I CONJURED IT
WITHOUT ANY
STRAIN--
MY INJURIES
DON'T SEEM TO
HAVE CRIPPLED
MY MUTANT POWER
TO MANIFEST IMAGES
FROM PEOPLE'S
MINDS--THAT'S
GREAT!

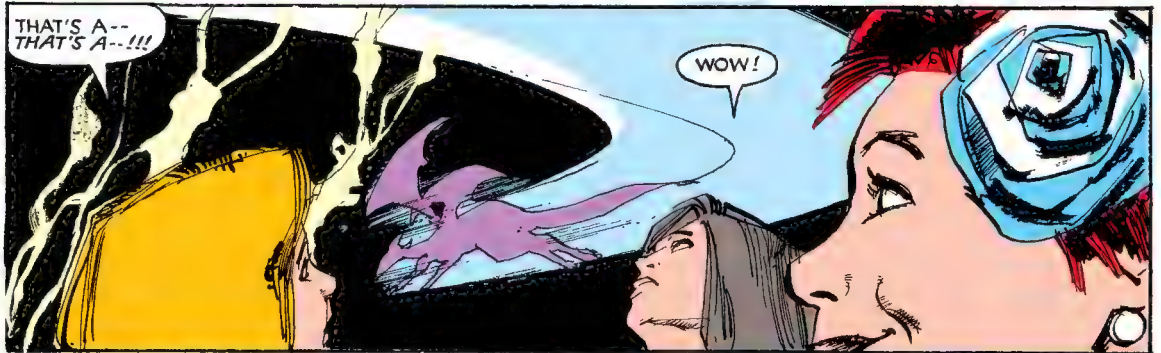


OH, DANI, YOU'RE SO NAUGHTY--
HEY?! WHAT'S UP W/ LOCKHEED?!



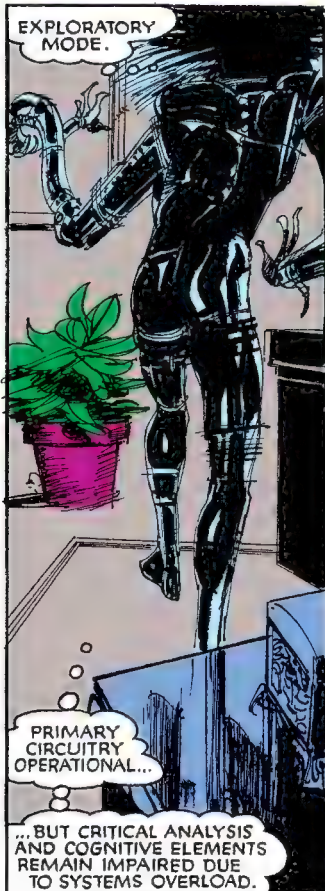
COME
BACK
HERE,
YOU
LITTLE
SCAMP!

HE WAS PEACEFUL AS COULD BE-- THEN,
HE SUDDENLY GOT ALL UPSET AND
TOOK OFF! I'D BETTER GO AFTER HIM!



THAT'S A--
THAT'S A--!!!

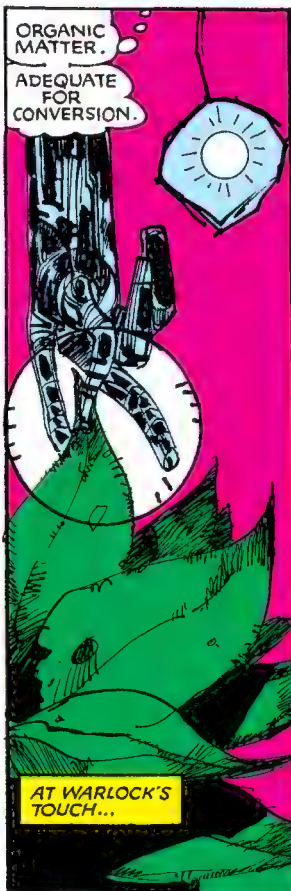
WOW!



EXPLORATORY
MODE.

PRIMARY
CIRCUITRY
OPERATIONAL...

...BUT CRITICAL ANALYSIS
AND COGNITIVE ELEMENTS
REMAIN IMPAIRED DUE
TO SYSTEMS OVERLOAD.



ORGANIC
MATTER.
ADEQUATE
FOR
CONVERSION.

AT WARLOCK'S
TOUCH...



... A
GENETIC
VIRUS
INFECTS
THE
PLANT...

... FUNDAMENTALLY
ALTERING ITS DNA STRUC-
TURE AND TRANSFORMING
IT INTO A TECHNO-
ORGANIC CONSTRUCT
LIKE HIMSELF, AS MUCH
MACHINE AS LIVING
BEING. AFTER THAT, IT'S
A SIMPLE MATTER FOR
HIM TO DRAIN ITS ENERGY
-- ITS "LIFEGLOW" --
THEREBY RENDERING
THE FLOWER INERT.



A LITTLE LATER...

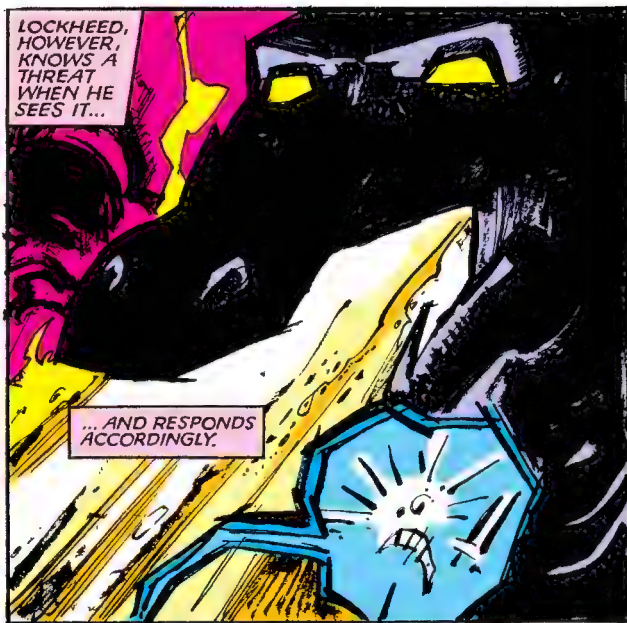
HOW
MARVELOUSLY
THIS PERSON
STORES WITHIN
ITSELF ORGANIC
FUEL, MAINTAIN-
ING FRESHNESS
FOR FUTURE
CONSUMPTION.

WHY DOES IT REFUSE
EVEN THE SIMPLEST
BINARY COMCALL?! PER-
HAPS THE INHABITANTS
OF THIS ORB ARE NOT
HOSPITABLE TO VISITORS?



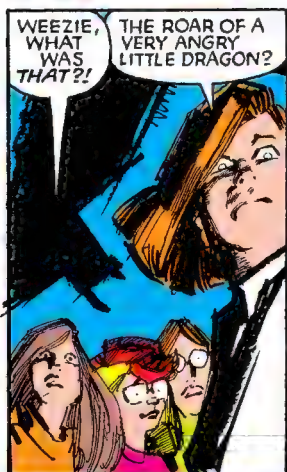
ALARM! PRAISE THE MAKER! DESPITE ITS MODEST SIZE...

...THIS ENTITY POSSESSES MORE THAN SUFFICIENT LIFEGLOW FOR MY NEEDS.



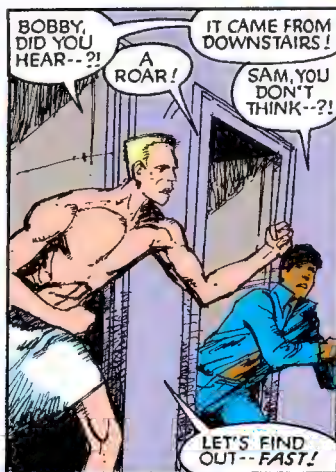
LOCKHEED, HOWEVER, KNOWS A THREAT WHEN HE SEES IT...

...AND RESPONDS ACCORDINGLY.



WEEZIE, WHAT WAS THAT?!

THE ROAR OF A VERY ANGRY LITTLE DRAGON?



BOBBY, DID YOU HEAR--?!

A ROAR!

IT CAME FROM DOWNSTAIRS!

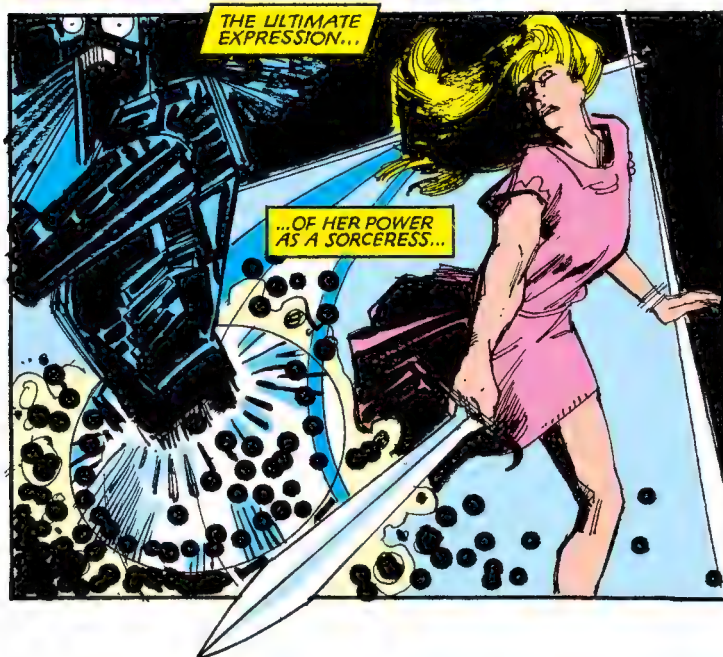
SAM, YOU DON'T THINK--?!

LET'S FIND OUT--FAST!



A DEMON-- IT HAS LOCKHEED CORNERED!

GLEAMING LIKE A STAR, ILLYANA'S SOUL-SWORD APPEARS.



THE ULTIMATE EXPRESSION...

...OF HER POWER AS A SORCERESS...



...IT CAN CRIPPLE-- EVEN DESTROY-- ANYTHING OF MAGICKAL ORIGIN.

UNFORTUNATELY, WARLOCK IS NOT.

GNGNH!

MY NIGHTDRESS--
IT BECAME ARMOR
AS I HIT THE WALL!

AND
THERE'S
MORE OF
IT THIS
TIME!

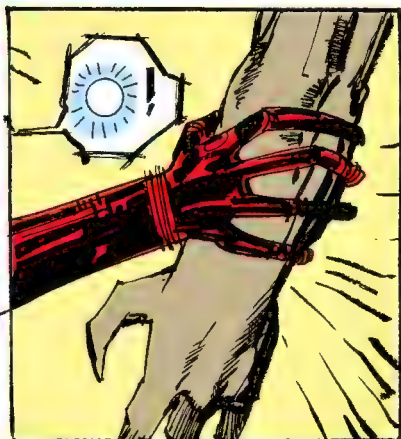
I CAN'T
HANDLE OUR
INTRUDER ON
MY OWN. I
NEED RE-
ENFORCEMENTS!

SORCERY ISN'T
ILLYANA'S ONLY
TALENT.

SHE'S ALSO A
TELEPORTER...

...ABLE, VIA
LIGHT CIRCLE
"STEPPING DISKS"
TO MOVE
THROUGH BOTH
TIME AND SPACE...

...OR SUMMON CREATURES
FROM THE OTHER-DIMENSIONAL
DAEMONIC LIMBO THAT WAS
ONCE HER HOME.

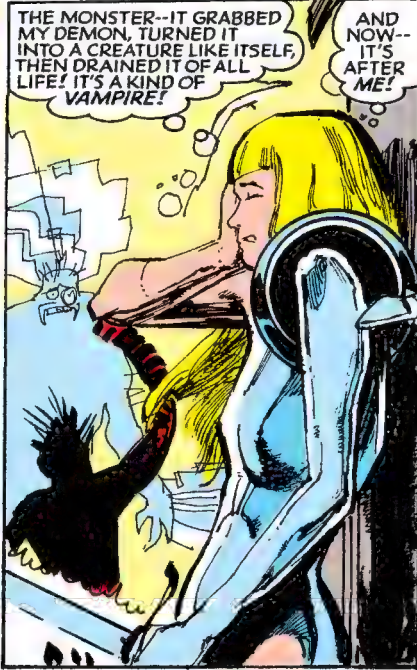
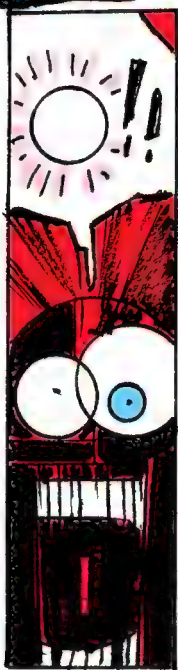


THE MONSTER--IT GRABBED
MY DEMON, TURNED IT
INTO A CREATURE LIKE ITSELF,
THEN DRAINED IT OF ALL
LIFE! IT'S A KIND OF
VAMPIRE!

AND
NOW--
IT'S
AFTER
ME!



MY BARE HAND--
BY THE ABYSS!?!
THE SKIN'S BEING
OVERLAID
BY A WEB OF
CIRCUITRY!?!



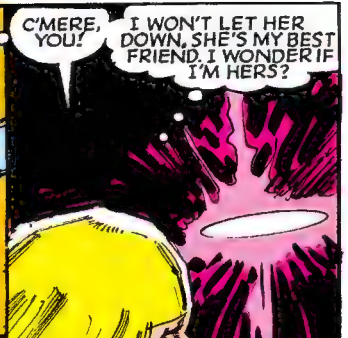


LOCKHEED, STAY BACK--
OR IT'LL GET YOU, TOO!

IF
ANYTHING
HAPPENS
TO THAT
DRAGON...

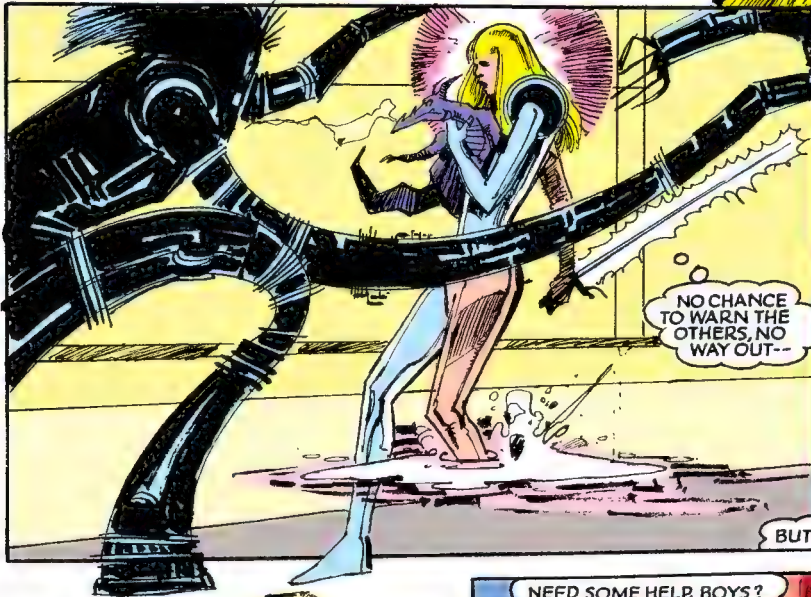


KITTY'LL
NEVER
FORGIVE
ME.



C'MERE,
YOU!

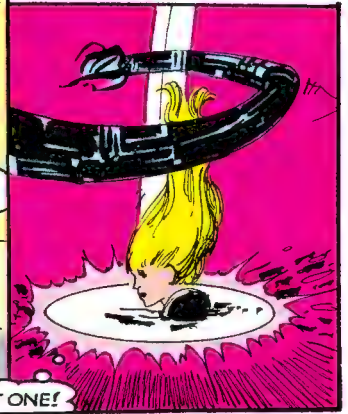
I WON'T LET HER
DOWN, SHE'S MY BEST
FRIEND. I WONDER IF
I'M HER'S?



NO CHANCE
TO WARN THE
OTHERS, NO
WAY OUT--



WE'RE
CORNERED!



BUT ONE!



AWFUL QUIET
DOWNSTAIRS,
BOBBY.

TOO QUIET,
MY FRIEND?

NO LIGHTS,
EITHER, THAT AIN'T
A GOOD SIGN. IF
THERE IS SOMETHIN'
LOOSE, AH DON'T
WANT T' BLUNDER
INTO IT IN THE
DARK.



NEED SOME HELP, BOYS?

RAHNE!

YOU'RE DARN
STRAIGHT WE
DO! YOUR WOLF-
SENSES'RE JUST
WHAT THE
DOCTOR ORDERED.

WHAT'M I LOOKING FOR, THEN--ASIDE
FROM ILLYANA AN' LOCKHEED?

RELUCTANTLY, THE BOYS TELL
HER WHAT THEY FOUND...

... RAHNE
RELAYING THE
INFORMATION TO
DANI OVER THEIR
MINDLINK.

THOSE--
DOPES!!

DANI'S
NA'
PLEASED,
SAM.

SHE'S
FURIOUS!

WE'RE T' FIND THIS THING O'
YOURS-- ASSUMIN' IT'S TH'
CAUSE O' TH' RUCKUS-- AN'
DEAL WITH IT...

... B'FORE ANY
OF OUR GUESTS
LEARN ABOUT IT,
OR OUR TRUE
IDENTITIES.

WHY ME,
LORD--

...WHY'M I
ALWAYS THE
ONE WHO
SCREWS UP?!

WAIT'LL THE
PROF HEARS--
HE'LL LOVE THIS.
AH'VE JEOPAR-
DIZED NOT ONLY
THE NEW MUTANTS,
BUT THE X-MEN
AS WELL!

AH'M THE
OLDEST. AH'M
S'POSED T' SET AN
EXAMPLE-- AH DID
OKAY AT HOME
WITH MY
FAMILY...

... BUT NOT HERE.
MAYBE AH'M JUST
NOT CUT OUT T' BE A
NEW MUTANT.

AH NEVER FAILED
B'FORE, THOUGH,
AT ANYTHING.

DON'T
SIT WELL...

SHIFTING
TO WOLF-
FORM...

... RAHNE
QUICKLY
LEADS
THEM TO
THEIR
QUARRY.

ETERNAL
GODS-- A
MONSTER!

AMARA STRIKES FIRST,
IN HER FRIEND'S
DEFENSE, WITH A
WHITE-HOT LAVA BLAST
THAT HAS NO MORE
EFFECT ON WARLOCK
THAN LOCKHEED'S FLAME.

SAM FOLLOWS UP...

...THE TWO OF THEM
CRASHING THROUGH
A WALL...

...AND OUT ONTO THE LAWN.

THIS OUGHTA
SLOW THE CRITTER
DOWN SOME.

WHAT TH' DEVIL
IS HE, ANYWAY?!!
SOME KINDA ROBOT?!!

HIS BASIC
FORM IS HUMANOID,
BUT HIS FEATURES'RE
MALLEABLE--THEY
KEEP CHANGIN'
FROM MOMENT
T' MOMENT.

WATCHBEASTS,
EVIDENTLY,
SEEKING TO
PROTECT THIS
HABITATION.

I DO NOT
WISH TO HARM THEM, I
WOULD FLEE IF I COULD
BUT MY LIFEGLOW IS
STILL TOO DIM.

HOLY COW! HE
TOUCHED THAT TREE,
AN' MADE IT
MECHANICAL
LIKE HIMSELF!

THEN, ITS
LIGHT FADED
AWAY AN'
HIS GOT
BRIGHTER--

--CRIPES, MY
TOWEL!!!

WAS HE FEEDIN'?!
DID MY IN-
VULNERABILITY
PROTECT ME?!

AMARA, DON'T
GO ANY CLOSER!

I SAW, SAM, I UNDERSTAND.

NO CREATURE OUT OF LEGEND--
NOT EVEN A DENIZEN OF THE
DEEPEST PITS OF TARTARUS--

-- COULD BE AS FOUL
AND HORRIBLE AS THIS.

ARE WE TOO LATE TO SAVE ILLYANA
AND LOCKHEED--IS THAT WHY THEY
HAVE NOT JOINED US, BECAUSE THE
MONSTER HAS DESTROYED THEM?!

MY LAVA
BLAST PROVED
USELESS...

... BUT I
HAVE
OTHER
POWERS.

GOT
HIM!

BRAVO,
AMARA!

SAVE
YOUR
CHEERS,
YOUNG
COMRADE...

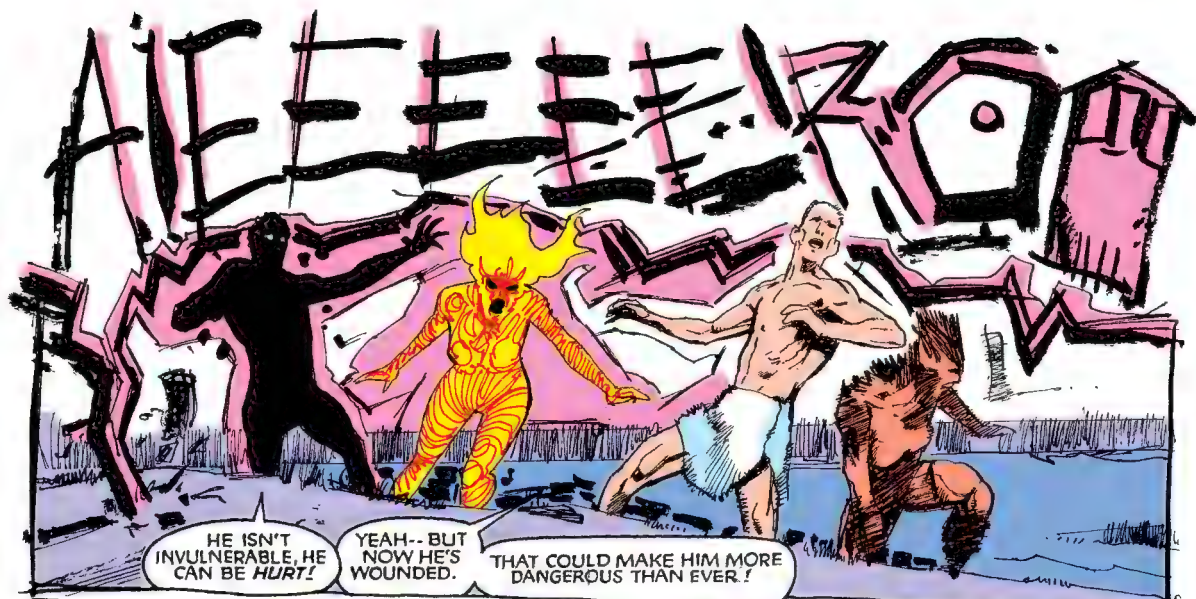
UNTIL
WE ARE
CERTAIN--

AIEEE!

ROBERTO,
NO! THE
MONSTER'S
TOUCH IS
DEADLY!!

AT AMARA'S COMMAND,
THE GROUND BENEATH
WARLOCK'S FEET
BECOMES MOLTEN
MAGMA, AND...

SO, MILADY,
IS MINE!

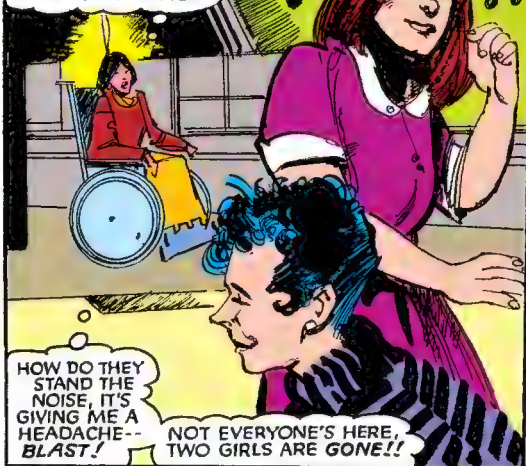


HE ISN'T INVULNERABLE, HE CAN BE HURT!

YEAH-- BUT NOW HE'S WOUNDED.

THAT COULD MAKE HIM MORE DANGEROUS THAN EVER!

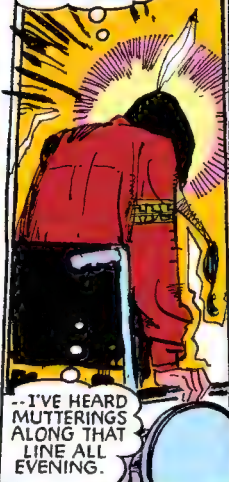
THE MUSIC'S SO LOUD, THANK HEAVEN, IT'S DROWNING OUT ANY SOUNDS OF BATTLE.



HOW DO THEY STAND THE NOISE, IT'S GIVING ME A HEADACHE-- BLAST!

NOT EVERYONE'S HERE, TWO GIRLS ARE GONE!!

PROB'LY OUT EXPLORING--



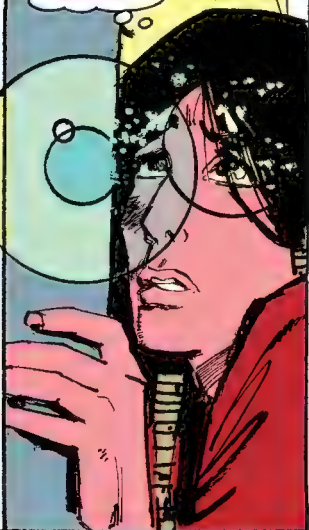
--I'VE HEARD MUTTERINGS ALONG THAT LINE ALL EVENING.

OBOYOBOYOBOY-- THE PARTS STILL WORK BUT THEY SURE AREN'T IN THE MOOD.

LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE, ALL THIS PAIN MEANS THE NERVES ARE HEALTHY.



WHOOOPS-- CAN'T STAY UPRIGHT, MUSCLES WON'T HOLD ME!

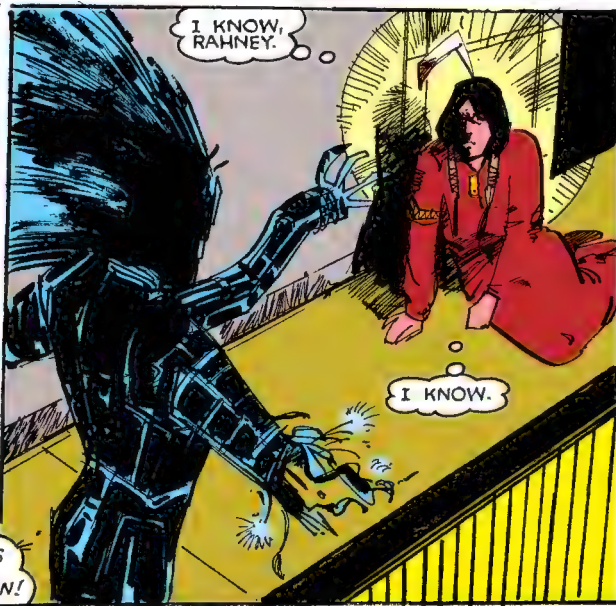


SO MUCH FOR THIS IDEA, I'LL HAVE TO ALERT RAHNE...

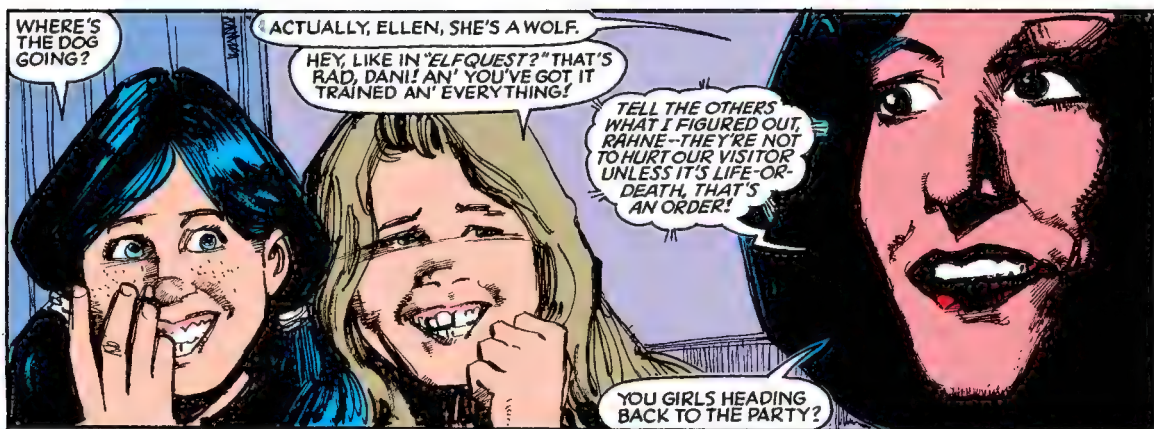


DANI, THE MONSTER'S TRAIL, IT'S LEADIN' BACK T' THE MANSION!

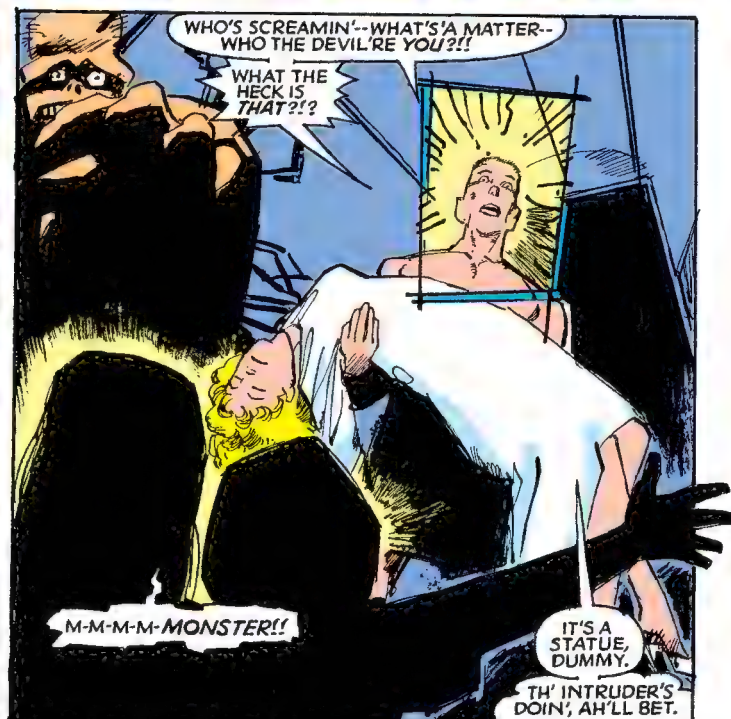
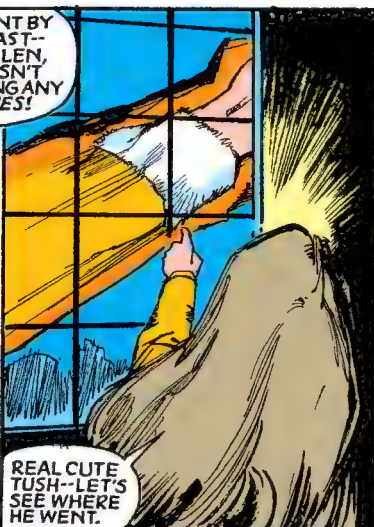
I KNOW, RAHNEY.



I KNOW.



HE WENT BY TOO FAST-- BUT, ELLEN, HE WASN'T WEARING ANY CLOTHES!

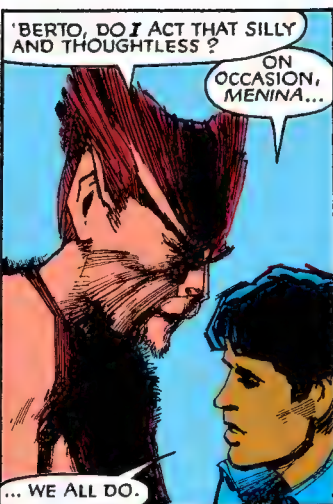




HOW 'BOUT YOU LADIES SCOOT TO THE ATTIC WHERE YOU B'LONG? WE HAD A POWER FAILURE-- MARA'S ALREADY HURT HERSELF BLUNDERIN' ABOUT IN TH' DARK-- WE GOT WORK TO DO, WE CAN'T BE WORRYIN' ABOUT DUMB LITTLE GIRLS WHO SHOULD KNOW BETTER.

HEY, Y'KNOW, WE CAN TAKE A HINT, DON'T GET SO HYPER.

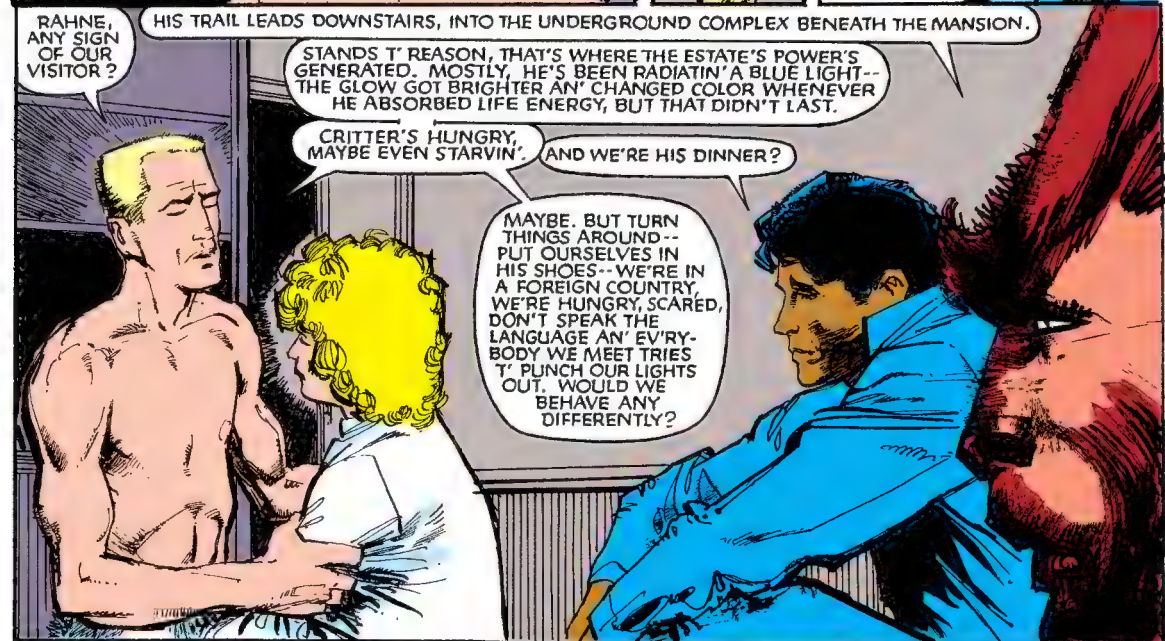
CREEP.



'BERTO, DO I ACT THAT SILLY AND THOUGHTLESS ?

ON OCCASION, MENINA...

... WE ALL DO.



RAHNE, ANY SIGN OF OUR VISITOR ?

HIS TRAIL LEADS DOWNSTAIRS, INTO THE UNDERGROUND COMPLEX BENEATH THE MANSION.

STANDS T' REASON, THAT'S WHERE THE ESTATE'S POWER'S GENERATED. MOSTLY, HE'S BEEN RADIATIN' A BLUE LIGHT-- THE GLOW GOT BRIGHTER AN' CHANGED COLOR WHENEVER HE ABSORBED LIFE ENERGY, BUT THAT DIDN'T LAST.

CRITTER'S HUNGRY, MAYBE EVEN STARVIN'. AND WE'RE HIS DINNER?

MAYBE. BUT TURN THINGS AROUND-- PUT OURSELVES IN HIS SHOES-- WE'RE IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY, WE'RE HUNGRY, SCARED, DON'T SPEAK THE LANGUAGE AN' EV'RYBODY WE MEET TRIES T' PUNCH OUR LIGHTS OUT. WOULD WE BEHAVE ANY DIFFERENTLY?

RAHNE, PASS THIS ON TO THE OTHERS: SAM'S THOUGHTS ECHO MY OWN. WE MAY'VE JUMPED TO THE WRONG CONCLUSIONS-- BEFORE WE DO ANY MORE, WE HAVE TO BE CERTAIN.

BIGUGLYMONSTERTEETHCLAWS-SAMHUMPHJERK

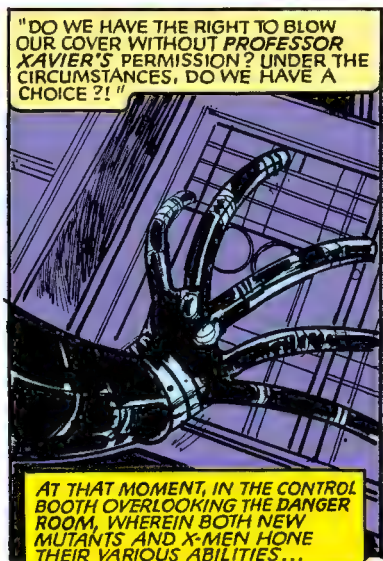


WE NEED TO COMMUNICATE WITH HIM.



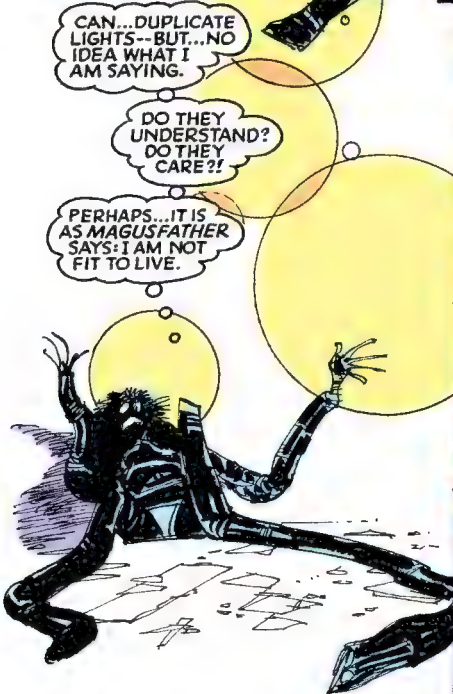
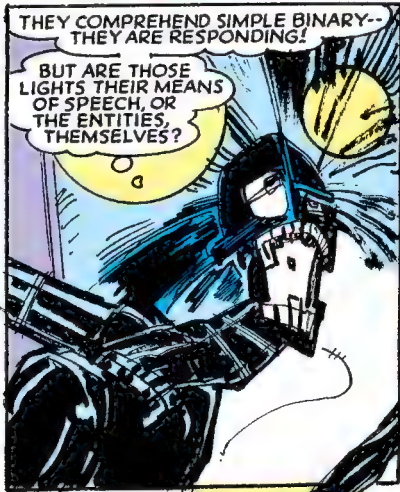
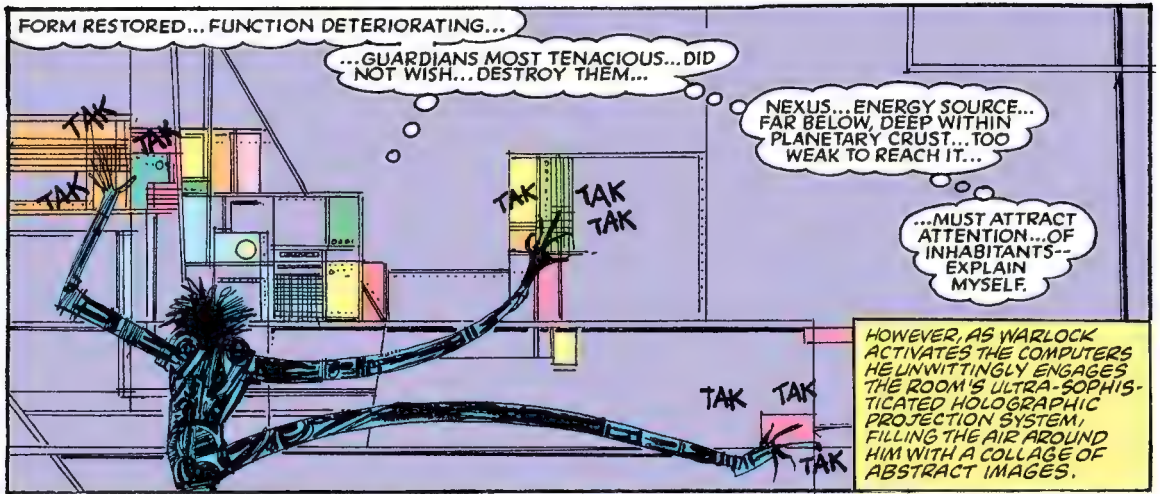
NO PROBLEM.

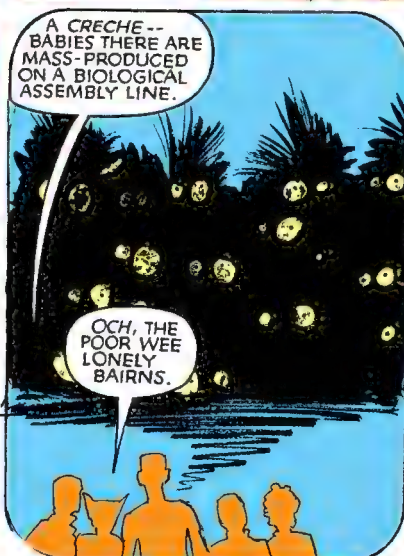
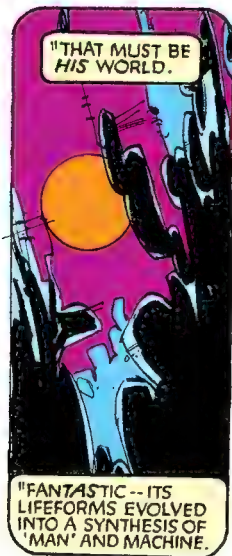
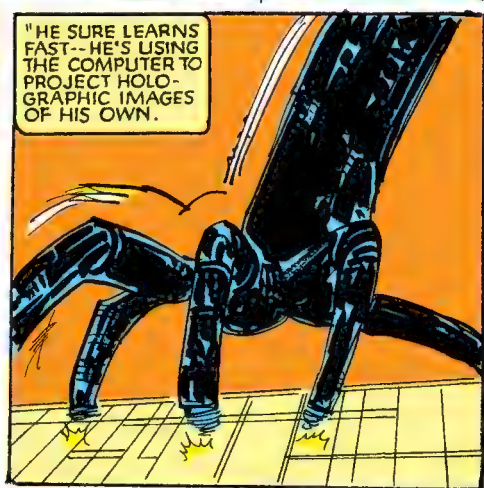
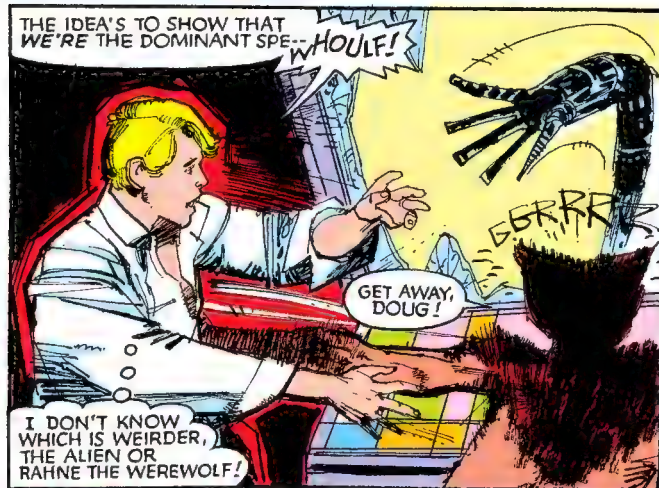
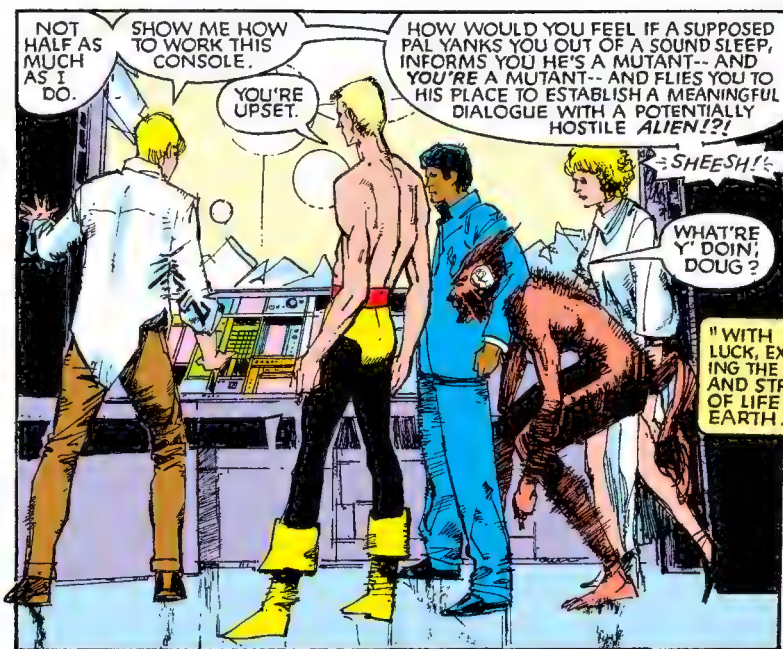
OUR FRIEND, DOUG RAMSEY, IS A MUTANT, AN' HIS GIFT IS LANGUAGES. TROUBLE IS, HE DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT US.



"DO WE HAVE THE RIGHT TO BLOW OUR COVER WITHOUT PROFESSOR XAVIER'S PERMISSION? UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, DO WE HAVE A CHOICE?!"

AT THAT MOMENT, IN THE CONTROL BOOTH OVERLOOKING THE DANGER ROOM, WHEREIN BOTH NEW MUTANTS AND X-MEN HONE THEIR VARIOUS ABILITIES...







"HECKUVA
RELATIONSHIP--
HEADS UP,
THERE'S OUR
BOY!"



"SMART MOVE! HE
DECIDED HE DIDN'T
LIKE THE GAME ...

"...SO HE
SPLIT."



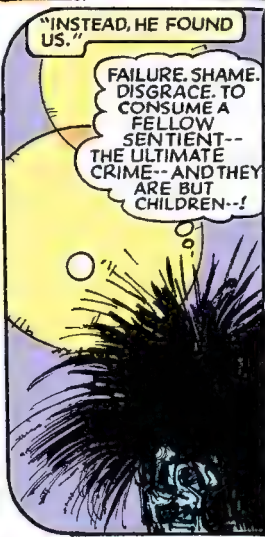
"Uh-oh--DAD'S HOT ON
HIS TRAIL."



"HE RAN AS HARD AND FAST AS HE
COULD..."

"...AND ENDED
UP HERE."

"HE'S AFTER
SANCTUARY, OR
EVEN ALLIES
AGAINST HIS DAD."



"INSTEAD, HE FOUND
US."

FAILURE. SHAME.
DISGRACE. TO
CONSUME A
FELLOW
SENTIENT--
THE ULTIMATE
CRIME-- AND THEY
ARE BUT
CHILDREN--!



HIS
HAND'S
SHAKIN'!

HE'S AT THE END OF HIS ROPE, SAM.

"DYIN',
Y' MEAN?"

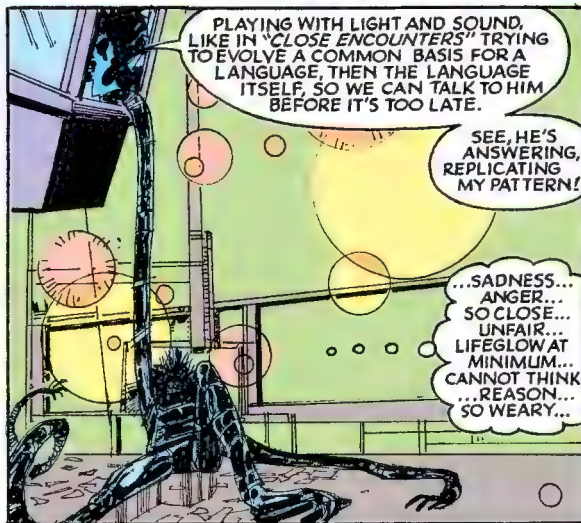
WE GONNA
DO ANYTHING
ABOUT IT?



WHAT,
SAVE
HIM?!

THAT'S CRAZY! WHAT
IF WE MISUNDERSTOOD
THE PICTURES HE
SHOWED US, WHAT
IF HE WAS LYING?!

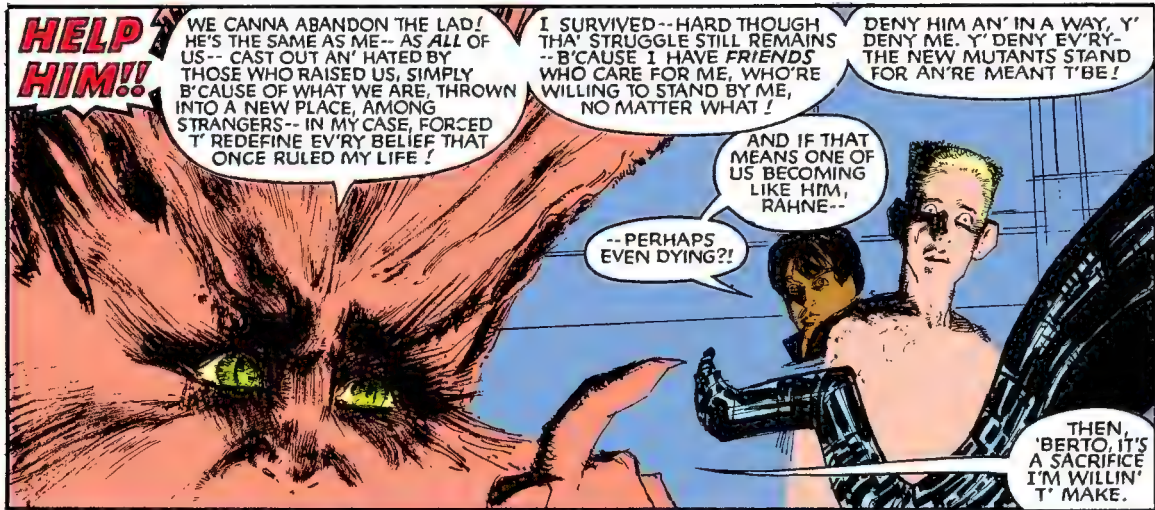
DOUGLAS,
WHAT'RE
Y' DOIN'?!!



PLAYING WITH LIGHT AND SOUND,
LIKE IN "CLOSE ENCOUNTERS" TRYING
TO EVOLVE A COMMON BASIS FOR A
LANGUAGE, THEN THE LANGUAGE
ITSELF, SO WE CAN TALK TO HIM
BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE.

SEE, HE'S
ANSWERING,
REPLICATING
MY PATTERN!

...SADNESS...
ANGER...
SO CLOSE...
UNFAIR...
LIFEGLOW AT
MINIMUM...
CANNOT THINK
...REASON...
SO WEARY...



HELP HIM!!

WE CANNA ABANDON THE LAD!
HE'S THE SAME AS ME-- AS ALL OF
US-- CAST OUT AN' HATED BY
THOSE WHO RAISED US, SIMPLY
B'CAUSE OF WHAT WE ARE, THROWN
INTO A NEW PLACE, AMONG
STRANGERS-- IN MY CASE, FORCED
T' REDEFINE EV'RY BELIEF THAT
ONCE RULED MY LIFE!

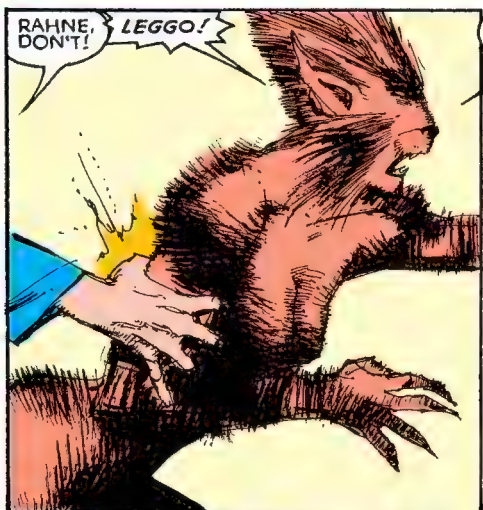
I SURVIVED--HARD THOUGH
THA' STRUGGLE STILL REMAINS
--B'CAUSE I HAVE FRIENDS
WHO CARE FOR ME, WHO'RE
WILLING TO STAND BY ME,
NO MATTER WHAT!

DENY HIM AN' IN A WAY, Y'
DENY ME. Y' DENY EV'RY-
THE NEW MUTANTS STAND
FOR AN'RE MEANT T'BE!

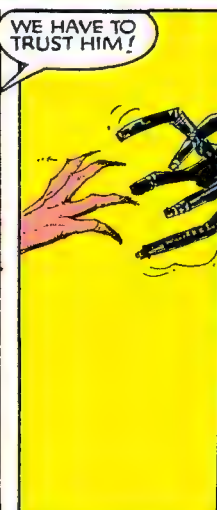
AND IF THAT
MEANS ONE OF
US BECOMING
LIKE HIM,
RAHNE--

--PERHAPS
EVEN DYING?!

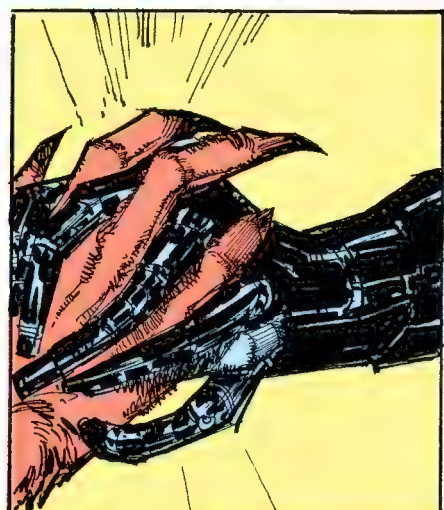
THEN,
'BERTO, IT'S
A SACRIFICE
I'M WILLIN'
T' MAKE.



RAHNE, DON'T!
LEGGO!



WE HAVE TO
TRUST HIM!



I'M STILL ME--
-- BUT
THE ALIEN'S
HAND'S
BECOME
A PLUG!



CAN Y' REACH
YON OUTLET?!



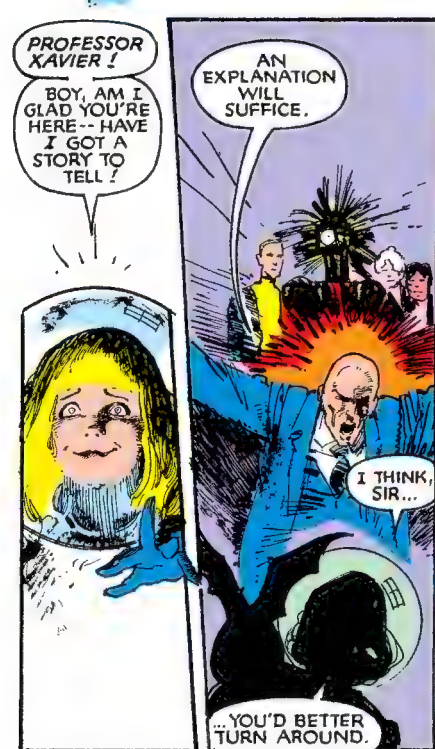
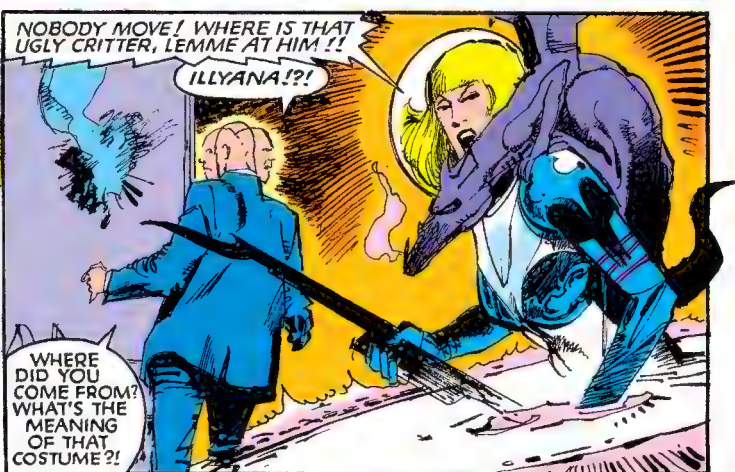
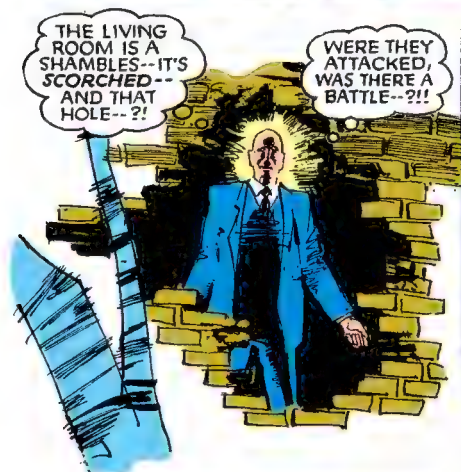
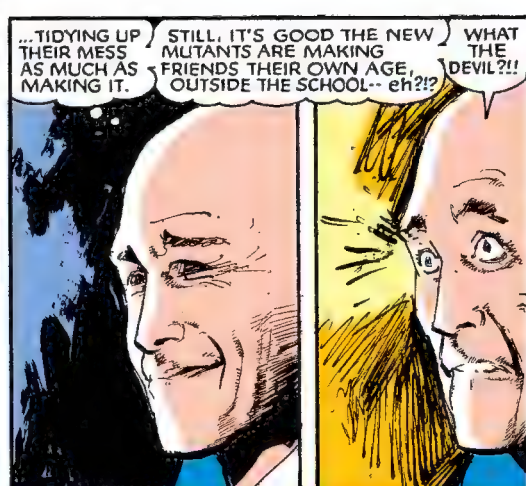
JOY!
STRENGTH!
HEALTH!



...YOUTHANK ...
...FRIEND...?

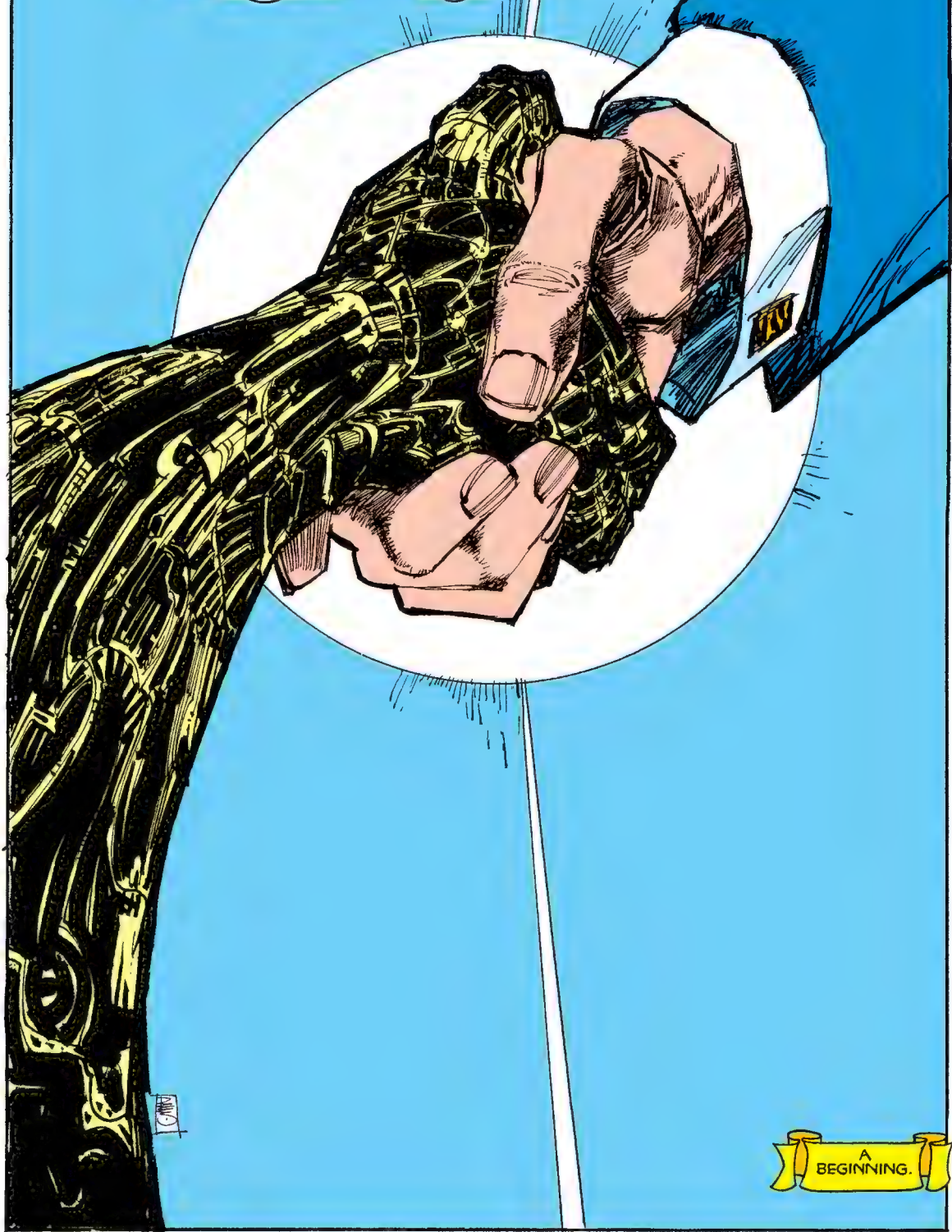
Y'SPEAK!?!

AYE,
FRIEND--
AYE!



THEY ARE MY STUDENTS.
IN LARGE MEASURE WHAT
I HAVE MADE THEM. I CAN
SEE FROM THEIR THOUGHTS
THAT THEY ACT FROM THE
BEST AND MOST NOBLE OF
MOTIVES. IF THIS YOUNG
BEING IS WORTHY OF
THEIR TRUST...

... HE IS
WORTHY
OF MINE.



A
BEGINNING.



FROM THE PRIVATE JOURNAL
OF CHARLES XAVIER...

SAMUEL GUTHRIE--
CANNONBALL

THE OLDEST OF THE NEW
MUTANTS AND IN MANY
WAYS THE MOST MATURE.
YET, OF THEM ALL, HE HAS
THE MOST DIFFICULTY
UTILIZING HIS POWERS.

UPON HIS FATHER'S DEATH,
SAM ASSUMED THE ROLE
OF HEAD OF THE HOUSE-
HOLD AT HOME IN
KENTUCKY-- HE HAS DONE
MUCH THE SAME HERE AT
SCHOOL. IT IS TO HIM THAT
THE OTHERS TURN FOR
COMFORT AND SUPPORT;
IN MANY WAYS, HE FORMS
THE TEAM'S CENTER, THE
CORE FROM WHICH THEY
DERIVE THEIR STRENGTH.

BUT HE IS A PROUD YOUNG MAN,
DRIVEN TO SUCCEED, TO EXPECT
AND DEMAND FROM HIMSELF
NOTHING LESS THAN THE BEST. IT
GALLS HIM THAT, WHERE HIS POWER
IS CONCERNED, HE MUST ACCEPT
FAR LESS. HE IS CONSIDERING
LEAVING THE SCHOOL.

IF, AS I FEAR, I HAVE DONE ALL FOR
HIM THAT I CAN--IF HE HAS INDEED,
REACHED THE LIMIT OF HIS ABILITY--

--THAT MAY BE
FOR THE BEST.

ILLYANA NIKOLOVNA RASPUTIN--

MAGIK

A RIDDLE WRAPPED
WITHIN AN ENIGMA--

--HALF HER LIFETIME SPENT
ON EARTH, HALF IN AN
OTHER-DIMENSIONAL
LIMBO, PRISONER AND
DISCIPLE OF ITS DAEMONIC
OVERLORD.

SHE IS A FORMIDABLE
SORCERESS IN HER OWN RIGHT...

...AND A MUTANT AS WELL,
ABLE TO TELEPORT THROUGH
BOTH SPACE AND TIME. I KNOW
TOO LITTLE TO PROPERLY
EVALUATE HER ABILITIES AS
THE ONE, AND AS FOR THE OTHER--
HOW DO I INSTRUCT HER WHEN
NEITHER OF US...

...KNOWS PRECISELY WHERE, OR WHEN,
HER POWER WILL TAKE HER?!

AND YET, SOMEHOW, I MUST FIND A WAY.

Jim Starlin

1 9 8 4

ROBERTO DaCOSTA--

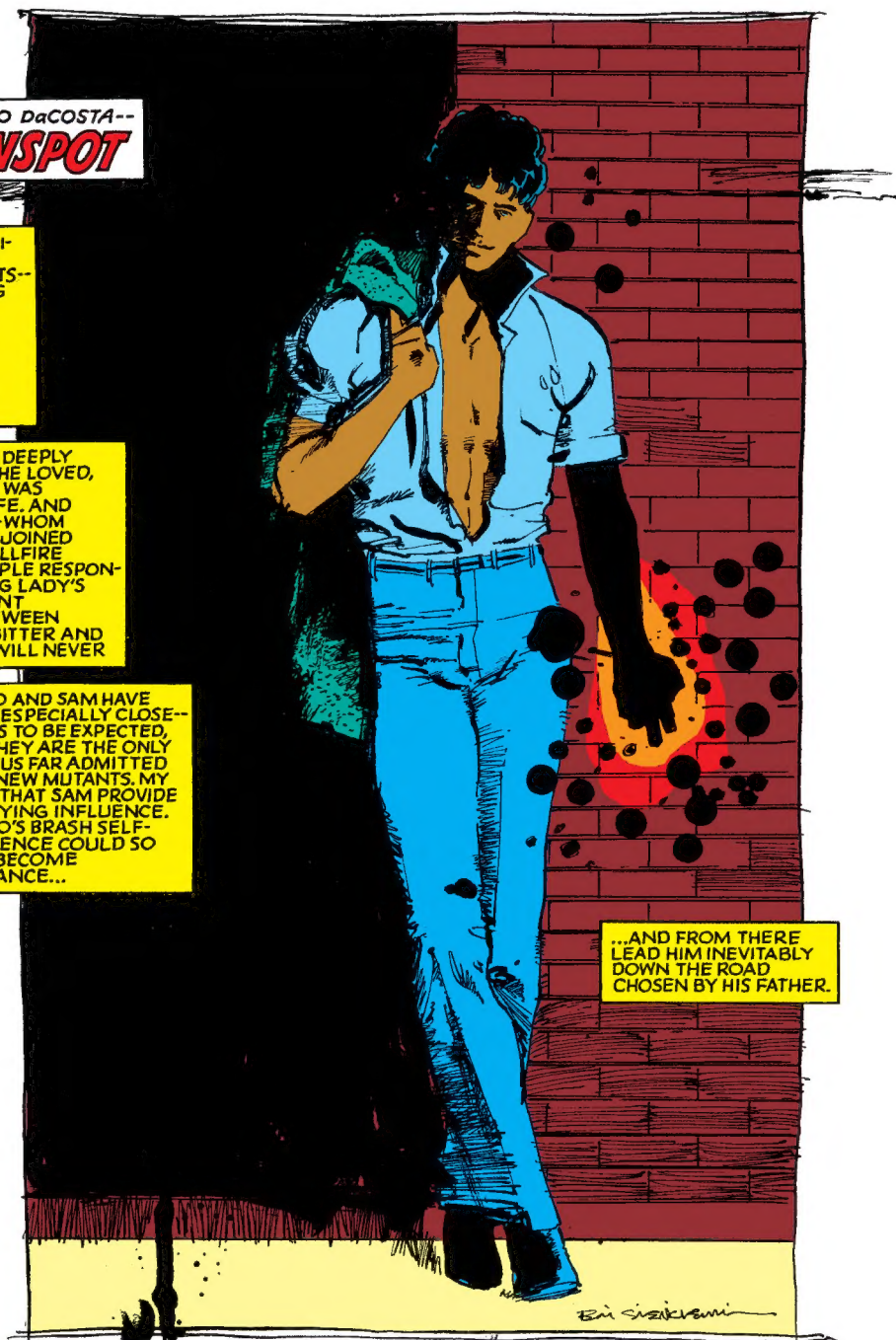
SUNSPOT

THE MOST COSMOPOLITAN AND DEVIL-MAY-CARE OF MY STUDENTS-- HIS CHARM, ACCORDING HIS DANCE TEACHER, STEVIE HUNTER, IS A WONDER TO BEHOLD AND VERY NEARLY IRRESISTIBLE. A MOST... PRECOCIOUS LAD.

BUT ALSO, I SUSPECT, DEEPLY TROUBLED. THE GIRL HE LOVED, JULIANA SANDOVAL, WAS SLAIN SAVING HIS LIFE. AND LATELY, HIS FATHER-- WHOM ROBERTO IDOLIZED-- JOINED THE RANKS OF THE HELLFIRE CLUB, THE VERY PEOPLE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE YOUNG LADY'S DEATH. THE RESULTANT ESTRANGEMENT BETWEEN FATHER AND SON IS BITTER AND DEEP. A RIFT I FEAR WILL NEVER HEAL.

ROBERTO AND SAM HAVE GROWN ESPECIALLY CLOSE-- PERHAPS TO BE EXPECTED, SINCE THEY ARE THE ONLY BOYS THUS FAR ADMITTED TO THE NEW MUTANTS. MY HOPE IS THAT SAM PROVIDE A STEADYING INFLUENCE. ROBERTO'S BRASH SELF-CONFIDENCE COULD SO EASILY BECOME ARROGANCE...

...AND FROM THERE LEAD HIM INEVITABLY DOWN THE ROAD CHOSEN BY HIS FATHER.



REPORT CARD

% MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

ANN NOCENTI
EDITOR
PETER SANDERSON
ASSISTANT EDITOR

As you see, we have a new title for our letters page that we think is appropriate for Professor Xavier's school. So from now on, please address your letters of comment to "Report Card." And if you don't want us to print your full address with your letter, please tell us so.

Dear Louise, et al,

Hi, guys! Just a few general remarks about NEW MUTANTS #9. The title, "Arena," says it all. Well, almost. I must admit, Amara remains a mystery. However, correlating the few facts that I have ("You see, but you do not observe, Watson!"), the following chain of thought has its being.

Primus: Amara is subject to strange, painful "attacks" that have no perceptible cause (remember a young lady named Kitty Pryde and her migraines?).

Secundus: Somehow, unintentionally and unexpectedly, Dani probed Amara's mind and displayed her worst fear. "Fine," you say, but that simply *isn't supposed to happen anymore!*

Tertius: Not mentioning any names, but certain people — namely our illustrious scripter and his editor — are publicly known to be very tricky!

Quartus: Add a liberal dash of hunch, and . . .

Conclusion: The Lady Amara Juliana, etc., etc. is a mutant!

Elementary, my dear Jones! Do you think that's worth a No-Prize?

Lee Cavett
10879 Radford
Houston, Texas 77099

My dear Cavett, our response to your query is, we are certain, the one that would be utilized by a certain world-renowned consulting detective whose abilities and talents you so admirably echo, namely that the act of deduction is in and of itself sufficient reward. Congratulations, though, on a job well done!

Dear Louise & Co.,

Well, after reading nine issues of the NEW MUTANTS, I've come to a decision. Yep, I'm gonna start buying them!

Due to the varied personalities of the group, the dialogue is always exciting. All the plots have been entertaining. I trust you will follow up the Shaw / Gyrich / Rossi plot of NM #2 soon.

In response to some letters you've been publishing:

1) There seems to be a lot of complaints about your stereotyping of racial characteristics. It is unfair to assume that all British people are superstitious and naive but, on the other hand, a character such as Rahne's adds interest to the book, and after all, she had to be born somewhere. However, are you sure that's Portuguese that Roberto is speaking?

2) People who say that "Cannonball is practically useless," or that Rahne and Dani shouldn't be in the group are ignoring the most important point of this series, namely that these are new mutants. They're at Xavier's to learn about their powers, not to be super heroes. We don't

want a carbon copy of THE X-MEN. And to be realistic, there is no reason why a mutant power should be "useful."

Two more points: A) Roberto looked gorgeous all through NM #9, and B) how do you pronounce "Rahne?"

Anne Rahne
817 Carbonate St.
Nelson, BC, Canada V1L 4R2

Last things first, Anne, We pronounce Rahne's name the same way you pronounce your last name (we hope) — that is, "rain," as in what falls from the sky. As for your point about this book taking place at a school, one or more of our characters may yet flunk out. How will they deal with that? Will they then turn to the Hellfire Club, feeling that Xavier has abandoned them?

Dear Editors:

The plot in NEW MUTANTS #9 was the silliest, stupidest, most used and dullest thing I've ever read. But the art was good.

Anthony Padilla
3701 Oakgreen Avenue, N
Sillwater, MN 55082

To paraphrase an old saying: you can't please all the people all the time (but we're trying!).

Dear Marvel:

This is the ninth and last issue of THE NEW MUTANTS that I shall purchase at this point in time because the stories either drag or create *deja vu* with previous X-MEN storylines and plots, and Danielle Moonstar has an uncanny ideological and / or stereotypical resemblance to John Proudstar — Thunderbird — who was the only member of the new X-Men to be killed off! The kids are ugly, unimaginative, unbelievable stereotypes!

Hey, I've got an idea: why don't you drop these kids and put Storm, Colossus, Wolverine and Nightcrawler — plus the tactless and tacky Kitty Pryde — in THE NEW MUTANTS and then put Cyclops, Angel, Iceman, Polaris, and Havok back in the original X-MEN magazine. Believe me, you'll sleep a whole lot easier and the world will thank you.

Professor Azimuth
Parkhurst Hotel
11 Lincoln Park
Newark, New Jersey 07102

Out of curiosity, Prof, what resemblance is there between Dani and Thunderbird, other than the fact they're both Indians?

Dear Editor:

In these days, when Reagan is being given quite a going over in the press, it's a pleasure to see NEW MUTANTS #10, a comic book in which the Republicans are the good guys! (Okay, okay, so it's not the same Republicans — I couldn't resist the comment.)

Actually, "Betrayal" did come off rather well in the political department. It's nice to see some political machinations in a comic book that actually make sense and even have a degree of subtlety to them. It's also

a welcome event to see the New Mutants agonize over which side to support. Too often, the visiting heroes seem to fall automatically in with the "right" side, but the nature and identity of evil are not always so readily apparent. It is interesting that Sam took Gallo's "slick talk" as a clue to his devious intentions. Often it is the ones with something to hide who have the smoothest words, because they have to consider carefully what they say in order not to let slip any incriminating facts.

"T.M. Maple"
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Dear Students:

A few questions:

Rahne, is one aspect of your mutant abilities the power to age in reverse? NEW MUTANTS #2 listed you as fourteen years old, whereas #10 described you as "a 13-year old Scots werewolf." Also, where are your fangs while you're in human form? (They were present in MARVEL GRAPHIC NOVEL #4.) Show 'em off! I, for one, found them fascinating!

Sam, who supports your family now?

Roberto, doesn't your hand hurt after delivering a blow that could "pulverize a fair-sized building?" We've been told you're not invulnerable. Perhaps you have the power to defy Newton's Third Law!

By the way, I love your book!

David Riley
Central College
Pella, Iowa 50219

Rahne's 13, David; the age reference in NM #2 — seen on a data screen at "Project Wideawake" — was wrong, someone who programmed those federal government computers having made a mistake. The fangs are still there, but Rahne, being a shy and modest young lass, doesn't like showing them. Some assistance is provided Sam's family by Professor Xavier; the rest comes from Social Security and other government and union pension benefits, plus money earned by his mom and brothers and sisters. His is a proud, hard-working family; they make do as best they can. And, finally, it seems evident from all the examples seen thus far that Roberto's power protects his fist when he's punching, or foot when kicking; it simply doesn't make the rest of him immune to pain or injury at the same time. (PS — We love your letter, too! Thanks a lot!)

Comments:

Mr. Claremont, your Latin stinks! I hate to say it, but it's true.

Of course, no one can expect you to get it all right, but if we see mistakes in our favorite books, we have to point them out! Understanding your limits of time and expertise, I shall try to keep this short and simple. Your research about Rome and creative powers of reconstruction are terrific. It's little syntactical errors that bug me. First, if these *Novi Romani* spoke ancient Latin, then Roberto would probably have as much trouble as you would understanding them! Reading it, he could probably make as much sense out of it as you could out of

an old volume of the original manuscript of Chaucer. But spoken — ? Even Latin scholars have problems recognizing Latin words when spoken! Take the word "nova." It was pronounced, as near as experts can tell, as "nowa," as in Noah. Even accenting the wrong syllable can make all the difference. Little case endings change the usage, tense and voice of a word, not to mention person. I translated a small passage from NEW MUTANTS #9: read it to someone who knows Portuguese and see how much he understands!

LUCIUS: Marcus Domitus, ha beamne verbum cum te?

MARCUS: Aquila, iturus sum. Gravis publica res.

LUCIUS: Agentes cum captivis peregrinis hoc mane?

GUARD: Dominus Gallus, quam poteratne scire? —

MARCUS: Quiñ taces, centurio.

LUCIUS: Crede illis esse liberos — duo pueros et trini puellas.

MARCUS: Tuus speculatore te bene informantem conservant, idem semper.

LUCIUS: Antepono scire eos patris civibus. Narra mihi, quāt sunt consilia in captivis?

MARCUS: Lex est disertissima, Aquila. Ea facit nullas condiciones pro aetate. Puē eunt ad harena, et si superabunt, iungent puellas in salivae trunso ... sub hasta vendi servito.

Of course, my own Latin's not so hot, but it should be somewhat understandable. There's another thing about names. Most Romans have three names: the *praenomen* or first name, the *nomen* or gens name, meaning the name of his clan or tribe, and the *cognomen*, or family name. Occasionally, a fourth name is given as a great honor to a very few, but it is extremely rare, and is usually something like Africanus. Your Amara should not have an "Olivia," and the Juliana should be Antonius or Antonia (I'm not sure exactly which. Names have very strange declensions of their own.) Another thing wrong is that Antonius and Aquilius (the proper way to spell it) are both "gens" names. The members of that clan are quite illustrious (Aquilius = eagle); one member was a friend of Cicero's and a famous orator in his own right — Gaius Aquilius Gallus. However, if you really want Antonius for a "gens" name, one of his relatives is Marcus Antonius Triumvir — Mark Anthony! And this is the name of the guy you want to call a plebeian! By the way, your evil guy has names that literally do not exist (that little "I" makes all the difference).

Finally, did you know that an "X-Man," according to the dictionary, is actually a person who works in the dead letter office of the US Postal Service?

Kathy LJ
1653 Alta La Jolla Drive
La Jolla, California 92037

Wow! Kathy, letters like yours truly make our day, because they enable those of us who work on the books to learn something new and delightfully different about our work! (For those of you who care to compare translation to original, by the way, the scene Kathy excerpted occurs — we think — in NEW MUTANTS #9, page 7, panels 2-5.) By the way, as noted in a later issue, Kathy, Roberto speaks Latin, though we concede a point may have been (severely) stretched by allowing him to understand classical Roman speech. There is a

reason for Amara's clan and family names being what they are, and it'll be revealed anon. However, anytime you want to help us out, either with translations or tidbits of social information, please feel free. It's really nice to see someone who cares so much — kind of makes us think we're actually doing something right!

Dear Editor:

A few notes regarding NEW MUTANTS #12 (and other stuff, too!):

1) On page 15, panels 2 & 3, Rahne can't follow Amara's trail because of all the "sulphur" in the air. What, pray tell, is this mythical Marvel mixture? I've heard of sulfur and sulphur, but sulphur?

2) On page 20, panel 5, Flor says: "Her heart's desire ... it's death! Not only for Amara, but for all the New Mutants!" Is Flor a closet psychic or something? How would she know about the New Mutants and what Amara's name was?

3) Yahoo — Amara's joining the New Mutants! I'm so happy! She'll make a good New Mutant, and she and her powers are so new and vibrant that I can't help but love her.

4) While I was browsing through this issue, I noticed that Amara can use her powers without turning into that hideous, swirly, orange thing. Granted, she is a mutant, but even mutants are basically human, so, please, leave her human!

5) This is NEW MUTANTS #12! That means the book has been in publication for a year. How about a saga and a not-so-annual annual?

6) I know what there is to know — so far — about Ilyana, but is she a true mutant or is she merely trained in the Arts Arcane?

7) Whatever happened to the "powerful, malefic psychic entity" we saw so much of in NEW MUTANTS and X-MEN?

8) Why does my copy of this month's NEW MUTANTS have the Bullpen Bulletins page from last month?

Joel Kinstle
Corryton-Luttrell Road
Corryton, Tennessee 37721

In order, Joel: 1) It's obvious — Rahne sneezed. "Sulphur" is the pronunciation you get when you sneeze while saying, "sulfur" or "sulphur." 2) Let's face it, Joel, she took the words right out of Dan's mouth! 3) As the saying goes, "to know her, etc. ..." — we can only hope this is part of a worldwide trend! 4) Gee, we think she looks kind of neat — fiery, like the sun. Besides, pal, considering what she can do, do you really want to be the one to tell Amara she looks hideous? 5) You want it, Joel, you got it — one NEW MUTANTS ANNUAL, coming your way this summer, illustrated by the kids' own co-creator, Bob McLeod! 6) She's both. 7) Which "powerful, malefic, psychic entity?" 8) Gremlins.

Marvelites:

When you first started the NEW MUTANTS you were doing a pretty good job. Not that you're slipping, but why must you have a mutual hate society between the Mutants and Kitty Pryde? What I mean is, you're presenting a conflict between the two groups; if you combine them to fight a super-villain, there will undoubtedly be a conflict. As for Amara, she is definitely disturbed by the jump to this supposedly modern society. Take it easy on the poor girl. How would you like to go from the un-

mechanized world of Nova Roma to a world of electric can openers? By the way, Sam may be 16, but he sure doesn't act it, showing off in front of Amara. I can sympathize with the guy but geez!

David Preston
202-55 Soundview Ave.
Stamford, Connecticut 06902

By now, as you've no doubt seen, David, the conflict between Kitty and the New Mutants is pretty much over. However, one of the most fascinating elements of Amara's character is how she copes with the culture shock of being thrust from the 1st century to the 21st — and if you thought she had a problem dealing with Rio de Janeiro, wait'll you see her first real visit to New York, in X-MEN #189! And give Sam a break, willya. Sure he acts like a jerk in front of Amara but what else do you expect from a guy in love?

Hil

I know you get a lot of mail, so I'll keep it short. On page 13, of NM #12, the policeman doesn't think anything bad about Amara until she speaks English. Then, all of a sudden, she must be on drugs. A tragically clear reflection of the current state of affairs and of the way the rest of the world looks at Americans. A shining ray of realism in a world of pseudo-fantasy. Thank you.

Jesse Raley
PO Box 7
Laurel Hill, NC 28351

Actually, Jesse, the point wasn't to show the policeman's hostility to Americans *per se*, but to foreigners, an attitude regrettably shared even in the United States. Here, too, people find themselves the objects of suspicion and even prejudice simply because of where they come from, and through no fault of their own. That's the sad reality, my friend, one we should all work to change for the better.

Dear Everyone:

I can well understand Rahne's preferring to be a wolf than a girl. Rahne must face the toughest challenge she ever will ... growing up! In her lupine form, she does not have to contend with all the pressure and general confusion that comes with this time. She simply escapes into a world where "life is so simple and uncomplicated."

All teenagers do this in some form. Some ways are harmless (daydreaming, comic books, etc.). Others, such as alcohol and drugs, can destroy or end their young lives. My hope is that Rahne will find the courage to face and accept all the difficulties of the real world and not cheat herself of the opportunity of being an adult by remaining a wolf forever.

Melissa Cook
Box 336 / Route 3
Bethel Springs, Tennessee 38315

So do we, Melissa.

NEXT ISSUE: Warlock's here — and Doug Ramsey, too, much to Professor Xavier's surprise — now what the heck is he going to do with them both? At the same time, something strange — and terrifying — is happening to Roberto and Rahne, with consequences that reach far beyond the New Mutants. In 30 days — "THE SHADOW WITHIN!"

Digitized by

Syl3nt Bob and

PHO

He's a gonna
be *OKAY!*

I think...

